Bengaluru Monday, November 24, 2025 Pages 14 Vol 78 No 324 ₹7

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DH

DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

Lakshya breaks season drought

Indian scores 21-15, 21-11 win over Japan's Tanaka

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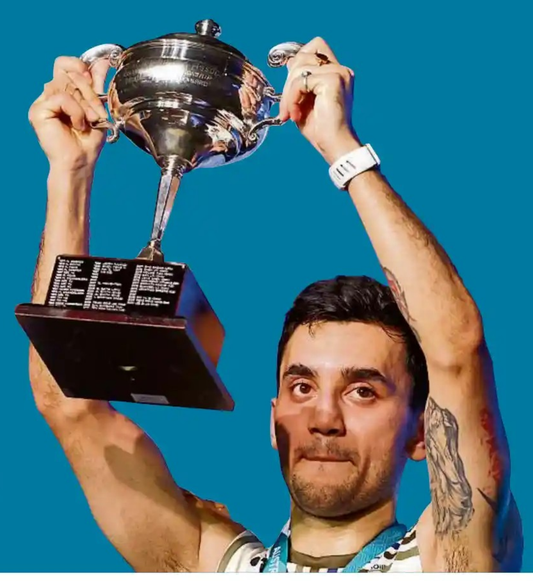


State

Power tussle: Kharge lobs ball into high command's court P.4

Nation P.8

B'desh sends 'official request' to India for Hasina's extradition

State

Rousing response for Gruha Arogya P.4

World

US, Ukraine and EU hold talks in Geneva P.12

TECH DIVIDE

- Modi says AI should have effective human oversight, strict prohibitions on the use of AI for deepfakes, crime and terrorist activities
- India to host AI Impact Summit in New Delhi in 2026
- Modi's call for global compact on AI comes amid US opposition to any such move
- US has rejected all efforts by international bodies to assert centralised control of AI
- US argues that excessive regulation could kill the sector

Modi calls for global accord on AI

Bats for preventing tech misuse even as US opposes any regulation

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
NEW DELHI, DHNS

PM Narendra Modi, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa (L) and Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva (R) at the IBSA summit, on the sidelines of the G20 summit. PTI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday stressed the need for a global governance architecture to prevent the misuse of artificial intelligence, notwithstanding strong opposition from US President Donald Trump's administration towards any move for international oversight of the technology.

"We must all ensure that AI is used for the global good and that its misuse is prevented. For this, we need a global compact on AI, built upon certain fundamental principles," Modi said at the G20 summit in Johannesburg, South Africa. "These should include effective human oversight, safety-by-design, transparency and strict prohibitions on the use of AI for deepfakes, crime and terrorist activities," he added, suggesting the foundational principles of the proposed global compact on AI.

The PM was speaking at the third session of the G20 summit – themed on 'A Fair and Just Future for All – Critical Minerals; Decent Work; Artificial Intelligence'.

> AI systems that impact human life, security, or public trust must be responsible and auditable. And, most importantly, while AI may enhance human capabilities, the ultimate responsibility for decision-making must always remain with humans
>
> **Narendra Modi,** PM

"AI systems that impact human life, security, or public trust must be responsible and auditable," Modi said. "And, most importantly, while AI may enhance human capabilities, the ultimate responsibility for decision-making must always remain with humans."

His call for the global compact on AI went against the Trump administration's stand. The US has rejected "all efforts by international bodies to assert centralised control and global governance of AI".

▸ Modi, Page 5

'UNSC reforms a necessity'

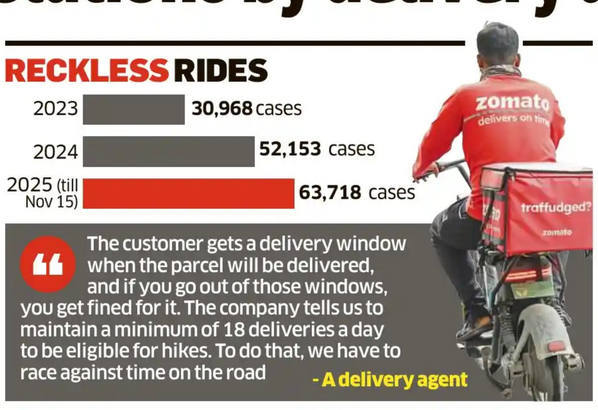
PM Modi on Sunday said the reform of the UN Security Council was no longer an option, but a necessity and asserted that the India-Brazil-South Africa troika should send a clear message for changes to global institutions. He was addressing the IBSA leaders summit.
Details on Page 12

Traffic violations by delivery agents soar in B'luru

1.46L cases reported between 2023 and 2025, as per police

DH EXCLUSIVE

ASHWIN BM
BENGALURU, DHNS


RECKLESS RIDES
2023 30,968 cases
2024 52,153 cases
2025 (till Nov 15) 63,718 cases
"The customer gets a delivery window when the parcel will be delivered, and if you go out of those windows, you get fined for it. The company tells us to maintain a minimum of 18 deliveries a day to be eligible for hikes. To do that, we have to race against time on the road
- A delivery agent
zomato
traffudged?

Traffic indiscipline among delivery boys in the city has reached alarming levels, with the Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) registering a staggering 1.46 lakh cases between 2023 and 2025.

Data accessed by *DH* reveals a continuous rise in violations, particularly in the high-density tech and commercial corridors. The total number of cases registered against delivery executives, who are often rushing to meet strict delivery deadlines, jumped significantly — from 30,968 cases in 2023 to 52,153 in 2024 and to 63,718 in 2025 (until November 15).

Police say the instant commerce rush is leading to frequent lapses in basic traffic rules, including wrong parking, wrong-side driving, signal jumping, riding on footpaths and not wearing helmets.

The BTP's eastern division, encompassing areas like Whitefield, KR Puram, Indiranagar and Halasuru, is the epicentre of the crisis, accounting for the highest share of violations, with a total of 73,971 cases over the three-year period. The division saw its case count nearly double year-on-year.

The Whitefield subdivision alone registered over 25,000 cases in three years, indicating immense traffic pressure and a high volume of delivery activity driven by the area's IT sector campuses and residential apartments.

▸ Violations, Page 5

Pressure for 'instant' delivery

A senior traffic police officer said that "riders are often forced to take shortcuts, which involves riding on the wrong side or jumping signals, in order to save time". "While we understand their need to earn, road safety cannot be compromised. The focus is now on strict enforcement combined with dialogue with the aggregator companies to embed safety training into their systems."

New Bill proposes penalty for govt job outsourcing

SUJAY B M
BENGALURU, DHNS

March 31, 2028, will be the cut-off date for private agencies engaged in outsourcing government jobs to end the practice, after which the violators could be punished with a maximum imprisonment of three years and a fine up to Rs 5 lakh, says a new Bill drafted by the state government.

The Karnataka Prohibition of Private Outsourcing in Government Entities Bill, 2025, which *DH* has accessed, also penalises the concerned officer of the "client organisation" (government department, PSU, boards, corporations, university, society and so on controlled by the state government) with "major penalty".

The Bill defines an outsourced employee as one engaged on a contract/outsourced basis in any client organisation immediately before the Act is commenced, whether engaged directly or through any private agency.

According to the new Bill, which is likely to be placed in the next Cabinet meeting, the outsourcing system will be phased out by the cut-off date.

"All existing arrangements or agreements with private outsourcing agencies shall stand concluded or (shall be concluded) stage by stage as determined by the government from time to time through notification," the proposed legislation states.

Till then, the 'Bidar model' will be put in place.

▸ Outsourcing, Page 5

State govt violated SC orders, flouted mining rules: Panel

CHIRANJEEVI KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

RED FLAGS
Amalgamation of 'C' category mines with legal mines, forest lands
R&R plan prepared by preferred bidder itself
No end-user restrictions on bidders as per SC order
No provision for guaranteed dispatch
Only 10% of proceeds will go to SPV for restoration of affected areas against the norm of 25%

The Karnataka government's amalgamation of illegal mines with legal mines and their subsequent auction as single blocks have violated several conditions laid down by the Supreme Court and led to possible loss to the exchequer, the Central Empowered Committee has flagged, recommending a review of the auction of five mining blocks spread over 4,500 acres.

The government attracted the CEC's ire after it prepared the five blocks, located in Ballari district, for auction by stitching together 'C' category mines (illegal), legal mines and forest areas to make them appealing to big companies.

The blocks are: Vyasanakere (1,001.76 acre), Jaisinghpura South (1,221.83 acre), Jaisinghpura North (1,490.44 acre), Somanahalli block (670.94 acre) and HR Gaviappa (98.94 acre).

With the CEC raising objections, the state government has filed a petition before the apex court, seeking post facto approval.

"Despite clear directions, the government proceeded to amalgamate other categories of mines and also fresh virgin forest area with 'C' category mines, and auction them in violation of orders. The auction process has since been completed," the CEC said.

▸ Mining, Page 5

Bill timeline: Justice Gavai defends verdict

NEW DELHI, PTI: Outgoing Chief Justice of India BR Gavai on Sunday said that the apex court gave a balanced verdict by doing away with the timelines for governors and the President on Bills, as the Constitution does not permit it, and at the same time holding that governors cannot sit over the Bills indefinitely.

Justice Gavai

In a conversation with media persons at his official residence, Justice Gavai said the Constitution rests on the principle of separation of powers and does not permit the court to read timelines where none exist.

"We have not only relaxed the timeline, but we also balanced it by saying that the governor cannot sit over the Bill for an endless time," the outgoing CJI said.
Details on Page 9

GRIEF SPILLS OVER

Wing Commander Afshan Akhtar, wife of Indian Air Force (IAF) Wing Commander Namansh Syal, who was killed during an aerial display at the Dubai Air show, salutes as his mortal remains are brought to his ancestral home, in Kangra, Himachal Pradesh, on Sunday. PTI

Fake ED officials make away with jewellery worth Rs 3 cr

HUBBALLI, DHNS: The police have launched a probe after a group of men posing as Enforcement Directorate (ED) officials took away gold jewellery worth Rs 3 crore from a merchant in Hubballi.

According to the complaint filed by Sudeen, a travelling jewellery merchant based in Kerala, five men claiming to be ED officials intercepted him near the Chennamma Circle on Neeligin Road in Hubballi on November 20 and made away with 2.942 kg of gold jewellery and Rs 2 lakh cash.
Details on Page 5

As backlash brews, Centre says no plan to move Chandigarh Bill

NEW DELHI, DHNS: After backlash over the Modi government's intention to move a Bill on Chandigarh, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Sunday said there is no such plan to present a draft a legislation in the upcoming Winter Session.

The MHA in a statement posted on X said that a proposal to simplify the central government's law-making process for Chandigarh is "still under consideration" but "no final decision" has been taken.

A Parliament Bulletin on Friday said the government intends to move The Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill 2025 in the upcoming session to include Chandigarh in Article 240 to align its administration with that of other Union territories without legislatures as well as Puducherry when its Assembly is dissolved or suspended.

"The proposal in no way seeks to alter Chandigarh's governance or administrative structure, nor does it aim to change the traditional arrangements between Chandigarh and the states of Punjab or Haryana. A suitable decision will be taken only after adequate consultations with all stakeholders, keeping in mind the interests of Chandigarh," the MHA said.

"There is no need for any concern on this matter. The central government has no intention of introducing any Bill to this effect in the upcoming Winter Session of Parliament," it added.

Cong takes dig

The Congress on Sunday described the Centre's announcement that it has no intention to change Chandigarh's administrative structure as yet another example of Modi government's "first announce, second think" approach to governance.
Details on Page 8

'Miracle sex remedy' costs techie Rs 48 lakh, damages his kidneys

BENGALURU, DHNS: A case has been registered against a quack and a medical shop owner for allegedly cheating a software engineer of Rs 48 lakh in the name of sexual wellness treatment that damaged his kidneys.

The complainant had developed sexual health issues and contacted Vijay 'Guruji', who offered a cure. He paid Rs 48 lakh for medicines but developed kidney problems allegedly due to the concoctions he had consumed. **Page 2**

Quickly

Rs 7-cr heist: 7th suspect arrested

The Bengaluru police on Sunday announced the arrest of a seventh suspect in the Rs 7.11-crore cash van heist. The arrested person was identified as Rakesh, reportedly the sibling of Ravi, another suspect.
Details on Page 2

Steel tycoon quits UK ahead of tax shake-up

Indian-origin steel magnate Lakshmi N Mittal, until now based in Britain and a regular on the country's richest billionaires tally, has decided to quit the UK as the Labour Party-led government's feared tax shake-up for the super-rich nears.
Details on Page 12

'Sindh may return to India': Rajnath

Recalling BJP patriarch L K Advani's words on Sindh's civilisational connect with India despite the Partition, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday said "borders can change" and "tomorrow Sindh may return to India".
Details on Page 8

NCB seizes meth worth Rs 262 cr

Stated to be one of the biggest recoveries of methamphetamine in Delhi, the NCB and the police have busted a cartel with the recovery of 328 kg of the contraband, worth around Rs 262 crore, from a house.
Details on Page 9

Row over Jamiat chief's Al-Falah remarks

Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind chief Maulana Arshad Madani's remarks alleging discrimination against Muslims while citing the example of the Al-Falah University, which is under scanner in the Delhi blast probe, triggered a political row. Madani claimed that Muslims in India can't even become vice chancellors in universities.
Details on Page 8

OVERHAUL

Kempegowda bus station to get a majestic Rs 1,500-cr makeover

MUTHI-UR-RAHMAN SIDDIQUI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Kempegowda Bus Station at Majestic, Bengaluru's iconic transit terminal, is set to be razed for a Rs 1,500-crore redevelopment to meet future needs, officials said.

The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) appointed Gurugram-based Resurgent India Ltd on November 14 to carry out a Rs 6.5-crore consultancy for the project announced in the 2025-26 state budget.

The agency will study land use, traffic flow and commercial development under a public-private partnership (PPP) model. Its report, expected by January-end, will be placed before the Cabinet for approval.

The KSRTC hopes to call tenders to select a private player in the second half of next year.

Under the plan, both the BMTC and KSRTC bus stations will be demolished, and the combined 32-acre site will be redeveloped into a swanky bus terminal and commercial hub.

KSRTC Managing Director Akram Pasha confirmed the plan, noting that the project would cost approximately Rs 1,500 crore. "It's still in the planning stage. The modalities will be finalised in the coming months," he told *DH*.

The core idea of the redevelopment is to seamlessly integrate the KSRTC and BMTC bus stations with KSR Bengaluru railway station, the Majestic metro station, the upcoming suburban rail interchange, as well as the surrounding area.

▸ Majestic, Page 5

CHANGE IS COMING

- 32-acre area spanning KSRTC and BMTC bus stations will be redeveloped under a PPP model
- Bus, railway, metro and suburban stations to be integrated for seamless connectivity
- Pvt agency will build commercial spaces and share revenue with KSRTC/BMTC
- KSRTC bus station has an average daily footfall of 80,000 and the BMTC bus station 5 lakh
- A total of 11,150 buses operate daily. KSRTC runs 2,660 buses, other state RTCs 283, and BMTC 8,200

Metro has big plans

Namma Metro, which has built the city's largest station under a 31,920-sqm site at Majestic, plans to develop over one million sqm of commercial space and its largest parking facility.

'Miracle' sex cure leaves techie with kidney damage, Rs 48-lakh loss

Quack, medical shop owner booked

BENGALURU, DHNS

A quack and a medical shop owner are under police scrutiny for allegedly cheating a software engineer of Rs 48 lakh in the name of sexual wellness treatment that damaged his kidneys.

On November 22, Jnanabharathi police registered an FIR against Vijay 'Guruji' and the owner of Vijayalakshmi Ayurvedic Shop in Yeshwantpur.

The 31-year-old victim, a native of Shivamogga, has been working in Bengaluru for three years and lives in Whitefield.

He told police he had consulted doctors at a private hospital in Kengeri after developing sexual health problems following his marriage in March 2023. He underwent tests and was prescribed medicines.

During a hospital visit on May 3, 2025, he saw a roadside tent near KLE Law College advertising an "instant Ayurvedic cure" for sexual problems. He visited the tent and later met 'Guruji', who offered a permanent cure through unique Ayurvedic treatments.

After an examination inside the tent, 'Guruji' asked him to buy 'Devaraj Booti' from the Yeshwantpur store. Claiming it was sourced from Haridwar, he charged Rs 1.6 lakh per gram. He was asked to pay only in cash and to go alone, as otherwise, the "medicine" would not get its powers.

He did as told, according to the FIR registered under BNS sections 123 (causing hurt by means of poison, etc, with intent to commit an offence), 316(2) (criminal breach of trust) and 318(4) (cheating).

'Guruji' later told him to buy another concoction, prescribing 'Bhavana Booti Taila', which cost Rs 76,000 per gram. The victim bought 15 grams for Rs 17 lakh by borrowing money from his wife and parents, the FIR noted.

'Guruji' subsequently pressured him to buy more 'Devaraj Booti', claiming it was "vital" to the success of the treatment. The techie took a bank loan of Rs 20 lakh for this, he told police.

The techie borrowed money from a friend to buy 'Devaraj Rasabooti', another medicine prescribed by 'Guruji', for Rs 2.6 lakh per gram. He bought the concoction worth Rs 10 lakh.

However, despite buying the expensive "medicines", the man found no improvement in his sexual health. Medical tests revealed that his kidneys had suffered damage, which doctors attributed to the concoctions.

When confronted, 'Guruji' allegedly threatened the techie and warned that his health would fail if he stopped the concoctions.

Rs 7.11-cr heist: Seventh suspect arrested in B'luru

Police continue hunt for absconding accomplice

BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru police on Sunday announced the arrest of a seventh suspect in the Rs 7.11-crore cash van heist.

The arrested person was identified as Rakesh, reportedly the sibling of Ravi, another suspect arrested previously.

"The suspect was arrested in Bengaluru late Saturday night. Further recovery is yet to be made," said Lokesh B Jagalasar, Deputy Commissioner of Police (South).

Police sources said one more suspect is still at large and is likely to possess the remaining Rs 80 lakh from the loot. Police are actively searching for him.

On Saturday, police announced the arrest of six people allegedly involved in the robbery reported from the Dairy Circle flyover on November 19. They have recovered Rs 6.29 crore so far.

Among the arrested were former employees of CMS Info Systems, the company in charge of vans transporting the cash, and Annappa Naik, a constable posted at the Govindapura station in Bengaluru.

Naik has been placed under suspension, police sources said, adding that senior officers have been asked to monitor sub-inspectors and other lower-ranked officials.

HM warns errant cops of dismissal

Home Minister G Parameshwara on Sunday warned that errant police officials will be dismissed from service, even as he congratulated the Bengaluru police for cracking the cash heist.

"This case was a challenge for the police. Officers and staff worked carefully and intelligently, cracking the case. It was a carefully planned act by the robbers. All that was revealed through the investigation."

"I have instructed officers to be vigilant in the department regarding the incident. If anyone is found involved in such an act, strict action will be taken. Legal action will be taken without delay, including dismissal from service," he added.

West commissioner rides two-wheeler to review works

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bengaluru West City Corporation Commissioner Rajendra KV on Sunday went on an inspection on a two-wheeler, covering the stretch between Mehkri Circle and Manjunath Nagar metro station on Tumakuru Road.

During the inspection, he urged engineers to develop the traffic island at the Yeshwantpur junction to ensure better traffic flow. He said plans are also afoot to beautify the junction and ensure the streetlights are functioning.

He also inspected the road-widening work near the supermarket close to the Yeshwantpur metro station. Senior officials and engineers of the corporation were present.

Central Corporation to hold phone-in today

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bengaluru Central City Corporation will hold a phone-in programme on Monday for citizens to raise civic grievances directly with the commissioner.

The programme will start at 6 pm and continue for one hour. The phone number is 080-22975803.

Commissioner P Rajendra Cholan requested citizens to use this opportunity to register complaints related to streetlight maintenance, garbage disposal, potholes, removal of dried trees or branches, maintenance of parks, e-khata, removal of unauthorised posters, footpath maintenance, drainage cleaning and similar issues.

Kidnapping case: Constable, 7 others in 4-day police custody

BENGALURU, DHNS: Eight people, including a constable, arrested in a kidnapping case, have been remanded in police custody for four days.

The suspects were produced before a court on Sunday and the police asked for seven days of custody. The court, however, granted only four days.

The suspects were arrested on Saturday for kidnapping four call centre employees in Koramangala and extorting Rs 8.90 lakh from them online. Among the arrested was Chalapathy, a police constable from Kolar.

The others are Pavan, 30, a seller of rejected goods; Bharath, 26, a painter; Prashanth Kumar, 26, a petrol station worker; Tejas Dave, 30, a garage worker; Zabihulla, 30, a welder; Atheeq Ur Rahman, 30, also a seller of rejected goods; and Prashanth Kumar, 26, also a petrol station worker. Except for Tejas, who is from Ahmedabad, the rest are from different parts of Kolar.

Police also seized two vehicles and recovered details about the digitally extorted sum. Further probe is on. A was registered at the Koramangala police station under relevant BNS sections, including kidnapping and extortion.

No meat sale across city tomorrow

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has announced a complete ban on animal slaughter in slaughterhouses and the sale of meat in shops across its jurisdiction, on the occasion of Sadhu Vaswani Jayanti on Tuesday.

The order was issued by the GBA's deputy director, Animal Husbandry Department.

White bandana, jacket sticker help cops nab robbery suspects

BENGALURU, DHNS: Wilson Garden police have arrested three people who allegedly threatened and attempted to rob a private firm employee in the early hours of November 15.

The arrested suspects are Vikram, 19, Saravana, 20, and Surya, 19, all from Adugodi, police said on Sunday.

Police launched an investigation after a viral video showed three men on a two-wheeler waylaying the victim on his scooter at Shanthinagar and attempting to rob him.

The suspects fled when the victim resisted.

Following a complaint, a case was registered.

A distinctive white bandana worn by one of the suspects and a reflective sticker on the jacket of another helped police trace them.

The investigators arrested the trio and learnt during questioning that they had stolen a Honda Dio and used it to threaten the public by displaying weapons.

The suspects confessed to stealing two mobile phones and one silver chain from some people they had threatened, police said.

Further investigation is underway.

From vision to impact: VIDYA South Zone celebrates 15 years of empowering change

BENGALURU, DHNS: VIDYA South Zone marked its 15th anniversary on Sunday with a special event at Town Hall, themed "A journey from vision to impact", showcasing its work in educating and empowering underprivileged children, youth and women.

The celebration featured student performances, inspiring transformation stories, and the felicitation of long-serving teachers and alumni.

VIDYA South Zone CEO Rekha Srinivasan, Director Deepa Srivastava, Founder President Rashmi Mishra, former IIT Bombay Director Prof Ashok Mishra, and Karnataka Digital Economy Mission CEO Sanjeev Kumar Gupta at the event in Bengaluru on Sunday. DH PHOTO/MS MANJUNATH

Sanjeev Kumar Gupta, CEO of the Karnataka Digital Economy Mission (KDEM), attended as a special guest.

Under the leadership of founder-president Rashmi Misra, VIDYA has grown substantially since its inception in 2010.

Rekha Srinivasan, CEO of VIDYA South Zone, said the organisation has reached over 5 lakh beneficiaries through 146 projects and three Centres of Excellence. "What began as a small seed in 2010 has grown into a movement of hope and empowerment," she said, noting the growth from 150 students in one school to more than 68,000 beneficiaries annually by 2025.

She highlighted success stories of alumni such as Rani, now a quality control analyst, and Santosh, who mentors others after earning a digital certification.

Misra urged support for establishing a dedicated VIDYA school and a digital hub in the city to impart job-readiness and future skills like AI and cybersecurity, ensuring the next phase is "fully digital and full of possibility."

The anniversary event also included a panel discussion and a call to action for donors, partners and volunteers to continue supporting VIDYA's mission of delivering quality education and empowerment across the South Zone.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Youth festival: GN Nagamani Srinath and TT Srinivasan to attend; Organised by MES Kalavedi; MES Vidyasagar Prof MPL Sastry PU College, Rajajinagar; 10 am.

CULTURAL

Children's Vachana Mela: S Pinakapani, Wooday P Krishna, Lokaprakash and Rekha Prakash to attend; Organised by Vachana Jyothi Balaga; Kalagrama, Mallathahalli; 9.30 am.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Partly cloudy sky

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	28.0°C
Minimum	18.0°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	86%
Sunset (Nov 24)	5:50 pm
Sunrise (Nov 25)	6:22 am
Moonrise	8:50 am
Moonset	8:17 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

DH DECCAN HERALD
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: 9008366666
: support@deccanherald.co.in

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. 25/2025/SBC Dated: 17-11-2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders through IREPS only for supply of following items:

Tender.No	Description in Brief	Tender Due on
L8256546B	LHB Bogies with 140 KN Bogies with air suspension for conversion of LS2/LS3 type coaches into LS5 Type Coaches. Qty- 02 Set.	17-12-2025 10:30 Hrs.

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
PUB/666/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26 Senior Divisional Materials Manager, Bengaluru
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Open Tender Notice No. BE-29-2025-26-OT-17-19 (Through E-Tendering)
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Tender No	Description in Work	Approx. Value	Tender Closing Date Time
BE-29-2025-26-OT-19	Provision of standby, augmentation and replacement of defective LTUG & HTUG cables over Bengaluru Division.	Rs. 3,82,48,282/-	12-12-2025 / 15:00 Hrs
BE-29-2025-26-OT-17	Electrical arrangements- 1) Provision of Quick coach watering system for all 6 platforms at Bangarapet station. 2) Lighting arrangement for playground at MG Colony, Bengaluru. 3) Provision of energy efficient air-conditioning units in place of old conventional AC units and provision of new solar water heaters in place of out of codal life/defective solar water heaters over Bengaluru Division. 4) Rearranging of existing BESCOM HT&LT overhead lines of Settihali village obstructing transportation of heavy trucks at SET goods shed. 5) Provision of Automatic Power Factor Correction (APFC) panel at Yasvantpur Sub-station.	Rs. 1,91,26,319/-	10-12-2025 / 15:00 Hrs

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Keep visiting the website for any corrigendum till closing date
PUB/668/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26 Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/General /Bengaluru
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
PALAKKAD DIVISION
Sr. Divisional Engineer/Co-ordination/Southern Railway/Palakkad Invites E - TENDERS for the following works.
E - TENDER NOTICE No. PGT/OT/23/2025 dated 21/11/2025

Sl. No.	Name of work	Approximate Cash value in (₹) lakhs	Bid Security Amount (₹)	Tender closing date on 15.00 hrs	Completion Period In Months
1	Provision of Mini IPS and Earth Leakage Detectors (ELD) at leftover Engg Level Crossings in D route of Palakkad Division - Construction of S&T Hut at Various locations.	69.55	1,39,100/-	15/12/2025	Eight
2	Palakkad Division-Provision for Buildings in connection with Track Machine sidings at various stations.	201.30	2,50,700/-	22/12/2025	Twelve
3	Palakkad Division-Construction of Dress changing room for RPF Women staff with toilets facilities in existing all RPF Post/OP & Barracks at Mangalore Jn /RPF/POST & OutPost /Thalassery, Badagara, Tirur, Nilambur & Pollachi ie, at 6 locations, Building portion.	50.69	1,01,400/-	15/12/2025	Twelve
4	Palakkad Division. Ottappalam-Kuttippuram section - Construction of safety fencing (55Km) along the track side in connection with increasing sectional speed to 130 kmph	2815.67	15,57,800/-	22/12/2025	Eighteen
5	Palakkad Division. Kuttipuram (KTU)- Ferok (FK) section- Construction of safety fencing (70Km) along the track side on increasing speed to 130 kmph.	3545.17	19,22,600/-	22/12/2025	Eighteen

1. All the contracts on Works/goods/services will be subject to the new GST Act as applicable from time to time.
2. Contractors/Suppliers have to register themselves with GST authorities and to furnish the GST registration number in order to process the bills from 01.7.2017 onwards.
3. For complete details of the above tenders please visit Web site "http://www.ireps.gov.in.".
Note: It is the responsibility of the Tenderer to check any corrigendum issued for any correction or modifications uploaded subsequently in website; the same shall be taken in to account while submitting Tender.
Sr. Divisional Engineer/Co-ordination/ Southern Railway/Palakkad
(For and on behalf of the President of India)

BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL -II AT BANGALORE
BSNL Building 4th Floor, Telephone House Rajbhavan Road, Bangalore–560 001.
O. A. No.120 /2019
Between: Canara Bank, Narasimharaja Road Branch, (Earlier Kalasipalya Branch) at Narasimharaja Road, Bengaluru - 560 002. ...Applicant
And
Mr. A Amanulla Baig. ....Defendant
SUMMONS ISSUED UNDER RULE 23(VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES, 1993
Mr. A Amanulla Baig. S/o. Inayathulla Baig, Aged about 53 years, Proprietor of : M/s. A Aman Plywood & Furnitures, Having place of business at : No. 224, Jeddah Complex, Modi Main road, D J Hally, Bengaluru - 560 045.
Residing at: No. 7, 8th Cross, 2nd Main, Someshwaranagar, Bengaluru - 560 011.
Whereas, the Applicant has instituted an Application U/s 19 of the Recovery of debts due to the Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993, against the Defendant for recovery of a sum of Rs.12,38,020.00 (Rupees Twelve Lakhs Thirty Eight Thousand Twenty Only) together with current and future interest and other relies. And Defendant are hereby required to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication of the summons on or before 31.12.2025 at 10.30 a.m. in the forenoon in person or by a Pleader/Advocate duly instructed as to why the relief prayed for should not be granted. Take notice that, in case of default the Application will be heard and determined in your absence.
Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this the 18.11.2025.
By Order of the Tribunal
Sd/- Signature of the Officer
Authorised to issue Summons
Debts Recovery Tribunal, Bengaluru

Invites to be published should be sent to: **incitytoday@deccanherald.co.in.** Please note that hard copies will not be accepted

Need a hand? Write to us

Letters of grievances are pouring in and we are doing our best to accommodate as many as possible. Readers may write in to highlight civic problems affecting their locality and we will help address them in an interactive and effective manner. Grievances and issues related to public utility agencies such as Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB), Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) and Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited (Bescom) would be highlighted in the weekly column. The writeups, which could be accompanied by photographs highlighting the problems, will be published on Mondays.

Mail your grievances to: peoplesproblems @deccanherald.co.in

POLICE TELECOM HEADQUARTERS, MADHYA PRADESH
Bhadbhada Road, Bhopal-462003
Fax No.0755-2443674,E-mail: ssp_radio@mppolice.gov.in
NIT No.: PTHQ/CCTV-39/PUR/GIS/D-19368/2025, Bhopal Date: 20/11/2025
Notice Inviting e-Tender (3rd Call)
e-Tenders are invited by the Senior Superintendent of Police (Radio) MP Bhopal on behalf of DGP MP Bhopal for the following items:

Sl. NO.	Name of Item	Required EMD Rs.	Tender Fee Rs.
1	Supply, Installation, Integration, Commissioning and Maintenance of GIS Map, Geotagging Application Integration Software Solution	27,00,000/-	3,000/-

1. Cost of tender documents is non-refundable and cannot be exempted in any condition. Must be paid online at the time of filling e-tender.
2. Tender documents can also be download from the website of MP Police (www.mppolice.gov.in).
3. The Tender Should be submitted online on website https://www.mptenders.gov.in and within scheduled date and time.
4. This is a turn-key Project.
5. Schedule Date & Time:

Sl. No.	Activity of tender	date	Day	Time
1	Documents Publish/download/Sale Start Date	21/11/2025	Friday	1800 Hrs
2	Bid Submission Start Date	22/11/2025	Saturday	1830 Hrs
3	Bid Submission End Date	04/12/2025	Thursday	1700 Hrs
4	Opening of PQ Bid	05/12/2025	Friday	1710 Hrs

Sd/- (Riyaz Iqbal)
Senior Superintendent of Police (Radio)
Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal
G-21851/25

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Publication of Corrigendum to Tender Notice No. CAO/CN/BNC/128/2025 Dated: 21-07-2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Request for Proposal (RFP) for Development of Vande Bharat Sleeper Trains Maintenance Depot at Thanisandra (THSA) between Channasandra and Yelahanka Stations, Karnataka on Engineering Construction and Procurement (EPC) mode. (Tender Ref. No. VANDEBHARAT-THANISANDRA)	Rs. 2,27,94,75,676/-

Date of Closing	
Existing	Revised
21-11-2025 (15:00 Hrs)	12-12-2025 (15:00 Hrs)

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Deputy Chief Engineer/Construction/Works Bengaluru Cantonment
PUB/671/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

Chamarajpet: Schoolkids unsafe, govt looks away

On the busy stretch between Fr Briand Square and Royan Circle in Chamarajpet, thousands of schoolchildren use the road, yet the Royan Circle traffic signal is often non-functional, forcing them to cross dangerously.

Private buses and heavy trucks are routinely parked at the bus stop opposite St Teresa's School, leaving children waiting for buses squeezed between parked vehicles and speeding traffic. Despite repeated complaints to the 112 helpline, Chamarajpet police never respond, and traffic police are rarely seen.

I urge the police and civic authorities to act immediately.

Prabhu Harle
Nandini Layout

How to decongest Ittamadu Junction

The newly opened Hosakerehalli flyover has eased traffic for some commuters, but the congestion has now shifted to Ittamadu Junction, where it takes nearly 30 minutes to cover 1 km during peak hours.

I suggest making the junction signal-free for vehicles moving straight on the ORR from PES to Kathriguppe by implementing: ban the right turn from Ittamadu to ORR and allow only left turns; restrict entry to ORR from the water tank road, vehicles can use alternate roads to join ORR after the junction; and create a dedicated lane for vehicles turning right from ORR towards Ittamadu so that straight-moving traffic from PES to Kathriguppe remains uninterrupted.

S Varadarajan, Kalyaninagara

Srinivas new Vokkaligara Sangha president

BENGALURU, DHNS: L Srinivas was unanimously elected as the president of the Rajya Vokkaliagara Sangha on Sunday, alongside five other office-bearers.

Srinivas will succeed B Kenchappa Gowda in the post.

Dr K V Renukaprasad and M Puttaswamy were elected as the vice presidents, while C G Gangadhar was elected the general secretary.

Dr D K Ramesh was elected the assistant secretary and K V Sridhar was elected as the treasurer.

A press release from the Sangha noted that the office-bearers had been unanimously elected for the first time in the history of the organisation.

"In the elections mediated by former presidents B Kenchappa Gowda and C N Balakrishna, all the members of the 35-member strong working committee unanimously chose candidates for the five posts," the press note added.

Relief for land losers as BDA set to allot sites in Karanth Layout

Software developed for receiving applications

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

After years of litigation, delays and anxious waiting for thousands of landowners, the Dr K Shivaram Karanth Layout project is finally inching towards resolution, with the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) now preparing to begin allotting sites to those who gave up their land.

In all likelihood, the agency may invite applications exclusively from land losers within a couple of weeks.

According to officials, the first phase will cover around 5,000 sites.

The development is significant and yet delayed as it comes more than two months after the High Court of Karnataka — in line with directions issued by the Supreme Court — permitted the BDA to allot sites to land losers who had surrendered their land for the housing layout.

What's more, this comes as a major relief for land losers, who had completely parted with their properties as early as in February 2023 and have been waiting ever since for compensation.

Under what the BDA calls the 60:40 scheme, farmers are eligible to receive 9,583 sqft of 'developed sites' in return for parting with one acre of undeveloped land.

A senior BDA official said the authority had developed software to accept applications and distribute sites.

A file photo of the work in progress at Dr Shivaram Karanth layout in Bengaluru.

"The software is ready. Details of farmers and the extent of land lost are being fed into the system. This is being done to ensure transparency and eliminate manual intervention. We do not want to repeat the mistakes of the past," the official said, adding that a pilot rollout is likely this week, with full allotment expected to begin in December.

Although the layout was ready for allotment last year, the process was halted after the government attempted to issue sites simultaneously to the general public and to land losers. The high court stayed the move, resulting in a prolonged halt to the allotment exercise. The layout comprises approximately 34,000 sites in total.

Another official acknowledged that the layout, spread across 3,500 acres in 17 villages of North Bengaluru, is almost ready, barring a few parcels stalled due to pending litigation before the high court. "We are confident of securing favourable outcomes," the official emphasised.

'Real estate for BDA's benefit'

Ramesh M, a social activist from Ramagondanahalli, who has lost a small piece of land to the layout, said the BDA's assurances of 'developed' sites had not been fully met.

"The BDA has provided the basic infrastructure needed to build houses, but there is no piped water supply. When the 110 villages added to the corporation limits about 20 years ago are getting water connections only now, when will this layout get it? Technically, the BDA has taken up a real estate project for its own benefit," he said.

FIR over 'bogus voters' in Mahadevapura; police probe 'electoral fraud'

Complaint alleges fake names, data violation in 2024 Lok Sabha rolls

BENGALURU, DHNS

A woman resident of Mahadevapura has filed a complaint with the Whitefield police, alleging major electoral data violation involving the illegal inclusion of bogus voters in the Mahadevapura assembly constituency during the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

The complainant, Y Vinoda, who works for the Marathahalli Block Congress and is a resident of Nallurhalli, alleged that unidentified officials and political workers colluded to manipulate voter rolls by inserting duplicate and fake names. She stated that copies of these manipulated voter lists were shared with people who had no legal authority to access them.

Vinoda stated in the complaint that while reviewing the voter rolls of the Bangalore Central Parliamentary Constituency, she noticed suspicious entries under the Mahadevapura assembly segment.

Many names appeared to be duplicates or non-existent, raising suspicion of deliberate tampering to benefit political interests.

She further stated that such unauthorised handling of voter data amounts to a serious breach of citizens' rights and undermines the integrity of the electoral process.

The complainant urged police to identify the officials and political functionaries responsible for gaining unlawful access to the electoral rolls.

She termed it an organised effort to influence the election and sought action against those who circulated the data and facilitated the entry of ineligible voters.

She said the act not only compromised the confidentiality of voter information, but also pointed to a larger conspiracy.

Based on her complaint, the Whitefield police have registered offences under multiple IPC sections, including 405, 406, 409 (criminal breach of trust), 465 and 466 (forgery), 471 and 474 (use and possession of forged documents), 166 and 167 (misconduct by public servants), 171C, 171D and 171F (election offences) read with 120B (criminal conspiracy), along with Section 129 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

"We are verifying the documents shared by the complainant. We have issued a notice to the officials concerned to submit a written clarification over the allegations to take further action," a senior police officer told *DH*.

A SENIOR POLICE OFFICER

"We are verifying the documents shared by the complainant. We have issued a notice to the officials concerned to submit a written clarification over the allegations to take further action.

Participants at Canara Bank's annual marathon at Kanteerava Stadium on Sunday. PHOTO: CANARA BANK

Record turnout at Canara Bank's annual marathon

BENGALURU, DHNS: Canara Bank's annual marathon at Sree Kanteerava Stadium saw a record turnout of 12,000 participants across three race categories on Sunday.

Canara Marathon 2025 drew runners ranging from three-year-olds to seniors aged 97.

The event was flagged off by K Satyanarayana Raju, MD and CEO of Canara Bank, and former India cricketer Venkatesh Prasad.

In the 10K race, Dharmendra Purnia clinched first place in the men's segment, while Kavita Yadav won in the women's segment. In the 5K race, Jayesh Patil topped the men's under-60 category, and Chanda emerged as the winner in the women's category.

The top male and female finishers in the 10K category received Rs 2 lakh each, while the 5K winners earned Rs 1 lakh each.

Runners-up were awarded Rs 1 lakh and Rs 50,000 in the 10K race, and Rs 50,000 and Rs 25,000 in the 5K race. Winners above 60 in both categories were also honoured with mementos.

Raju praised the overwhelming participation and the spirit of camaraderie at the event.

Emerald International School in Bengaluru conducted the Annual Sports Meet 2025 recently, bringing together students, teachers and parents in a celebration of sportsmanship. The competition featured thrilling races, spirited team events and more.

Broken footpaths force pedestrians on to busy stretches

BENGALURU, DHNS

Residents near Bannerghatta Road say the deteriorating footpaths have made walking unsafe and inconvenient. Despite long-standing complaints, little action has been taken, they allege.

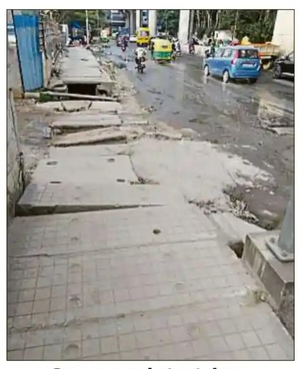
On several stretches, footpath slabs are broken or missing, making pedestrian movement difficult.

"The pavement near Fortis Hospital, opposite IIM-B, has been in poor condition for years. People have to stumble over uneven blocks, jump over gaps, or walk through sewage on the road," said Dr C Andrade, a resident of Panduranga Nagar.

The problem is widespread across the city.

Uma Y from Jayanagar said most footpaths are either encroached upon by vendors or filled with garbage and debris. "We can't walk even 100 metres without an obstruction," she said.

Residents also pointed out that several footpaths are blocked by transformers, deterring people from using them.



On several stretches, footpath slabs are broken or missing, making pedestrian movement difficult.

Bengaluru South City Corporation Commissioner KN Ramesh has been conducting footpath walks with residents and volunteers to identify issues. "We've observed many of these problems during the walks, and I've directed officials to take action. I plan to visit all wards in the corporation," he said.

Ramesh said the walks are helping build a network of volunteers, RWAs and officials. "It's impossible for officials to identify every problem. We want residents to flag issues directly so we can act quickly and build confidence," he added.

More overseas couples adopting special needs kids

NRUPATHUNGA S K
SHIVAMOGGA, DHNS

In the past five years, 108 children with special needs from Karnataka were adopted by parents outside India under intercountry adoption programme. In contrast, only 21 kids with special needs were adopted within the country. In all, over 500 children were available for adoption.

Data from the Department of Women and Child Development indicates reluctance among prospective adoptive parents in India to take in children with special needs.

Children are made available for inter-country adoption only if they are not adopted within India after 3 cycles of referral.

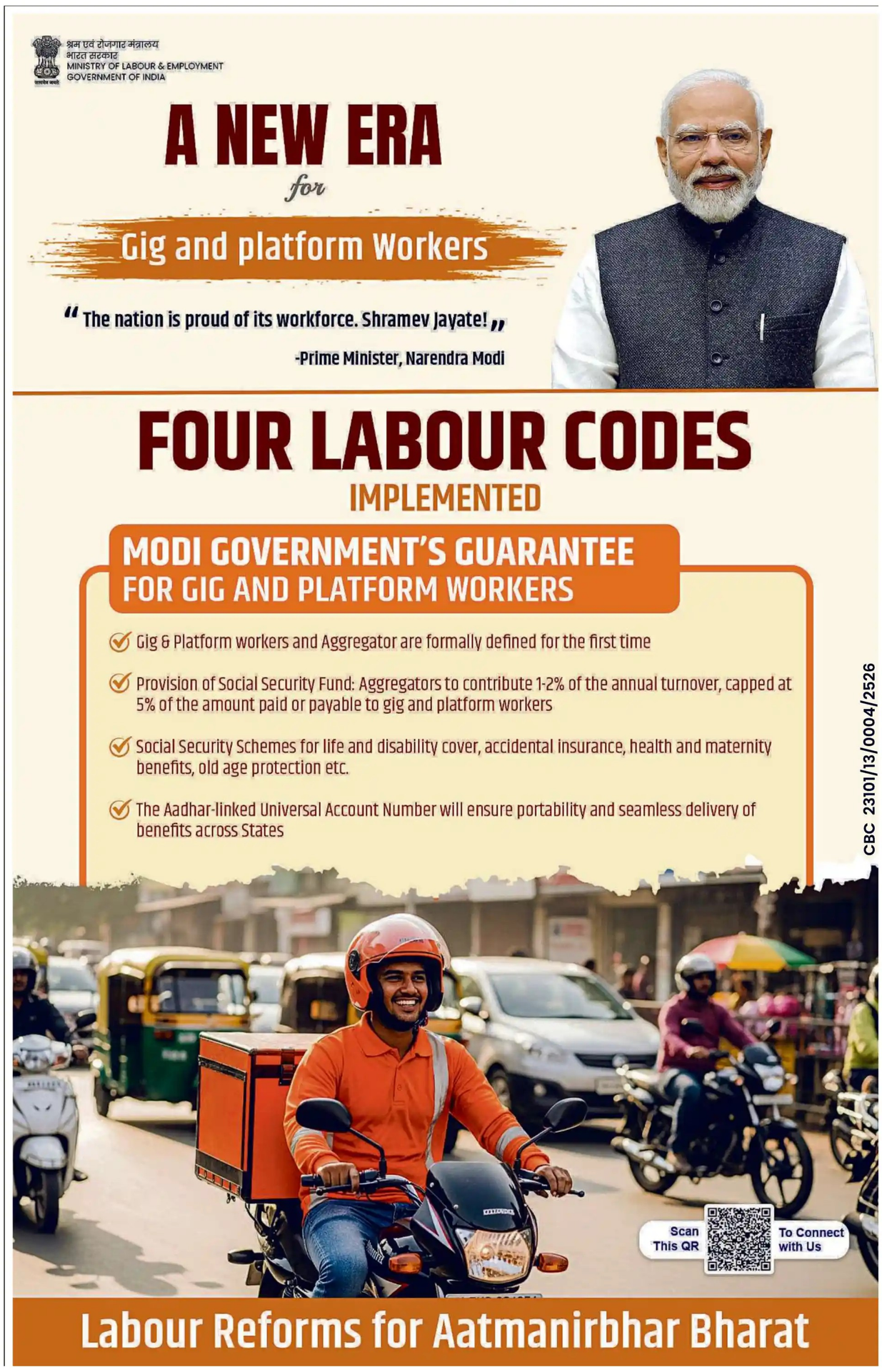
With cases of many biological parents abandoning such newborns near drains and lakes, the department has asked such parents to instead call 1098 or consult the department or district child welfare committee. Overseas couples are keen on adopting since birth rate there is low and many couples are struggling to have own babies.

District child welfare committee chairman Tajuddin Khan told *DH* that kids with minor disabilities like cleft lip, minor heart ailments, hearing impairment aren't adopted by people in India. But foreigners don't mind as they are better able to bear medical expenses.

Among reasons for rise in number of children with special needs, he said, were marriages within blood relatives.

"We upload health details of kids and people overseas share details with doctors in their countries. They initiate adoption only after their doctors confirm that disabilities can be treated."

He said a child with a cleft lip from Shivamogga was sent to US recently.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Labour Reforms for Aatmanirbhar Bharat

High Court directs Edu dept to release salaries of four teachers withheld for 19 months

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka High Court has directed the Department of Education to release the salaries of four teachers working at a high school in Belagavi, withheld for 19 months.

Justice M Nagaprasanna said that in the event the salaries are not released on or before December 4, the petitioners become entitled to cost of litigation at Rs 25,000 each.

The petitioners - Anil, Pooja and Rahul were appointed as assistant tachers and Jinendra as Physical Education Teacher at Deshbhushan High School at Chikkodi in Belagavi district on March 24, 2023, with the concurrence of the government. The petitioners claimed that on May 16, 2024, the state government withheld their salaries without any rhyme or reason. When the litigation over withholding of salaries was pending, the Department of Education also issued an order cancelling their appointment.

In the instant petition, the petitioners were before the high court with the fourth writ petition contending that while the litigation over cancellation of appointment is pending, they are not paid salaries from May 2024.

The petitioners contended that they have been working throughout from May 2024 till date and produced the muster roll of marking of their attendance on every day of working from May 2024. The advocate for the petitioners submitted a memo of calculation stating that the salaries of Rs 12,44,386 each is due to be paid from May 2024 till date. On the other hand, the state government defended the action stating that the writ petitions are pending and therefore, the salaries are not paid.

The court noted that the teachers or indeed any employee, to toil without wages strikes at the very heart of human dignity and stands in violation of Article 23 of the Constitution of India, which proscribes begar in all its forms. The court cited the Apex Court judgement which explains the scope of 'begar', to include several forms of forced labour and further holds that any form of work that is extracted from any person, without paying remuneration, would amount to begar.

"If the elucidation of the law and Article 23 of the Constitution of India is noticed qua the facts obtaining in the case at hand, what would unmistakably emerge is, that the State has practised begar by non-payment of salary to these petitioners for over 19 months, as the teachers have been made to work without salary. The State's defence, resting solely on the pendency of the writ proceedings, is wholly untenable and bereft of any legal justification. It is trite that no individual engaged in any form by anyone, much less in public service, can be driven to work, under the yoke of unpaid labour," Justice Nagaprasanna said, while directing the Department of Education to release the salaries on or before December 4, 2025.

RFOs to be held responsible for post-2015 land grabs: Minister

BENGALURU, DHNS: Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre on Sunday warned that range forest officers (RFOs) would be responsible for post-2015 encroachments in their jurisdictions.

He visited Tarikere in Chikkamagaluru district following a fatal leopard attack on a 5-year-old girl at Navilekal Gudda in Tarikere range.

"Any encroachment that happened after 2015 should be evicted," a statement from the minister said.

In the wake of the row on commercialisation of King Cobra research, Khandre issued an order to train a minimum of 5 personnel in each of the divisions under the range of the snake, to rescue problem individuals. Private agencies should not be involved, he said.

Six months after launch, rousing response for Gruha Arogya

Haveri tops state for high BP, anaemia; DK for diabetes

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

After nearly six months since the statewide launch of the 'Gruha Arogya: Healthcare at your doorstep' scheme, aimed at diagnosis and treatment of non-communicable diseases, Haveri district has the dubious distinction of topping the state for hypertension and anemia.

Dakshina Kannada tops the charts for diabetes, with 34% of the population diagnosed with the disease.

In Haveri, 43.5% of the screened population has tested positive for hypertension, 31.9% for diabetes and 11.7% for anemia. Dakshina Kannada has reported 21% of the people with hypertension and 0.6% with anemia.

Dr Raghunandan, deputy director for non-communicable diseases, told *DH* that people were responding well to the scheme and it had helped in early detection of a large number of cases.

According to data by the health department, only 3.52% and 2.7% have tested positive for hypertension and diabetes and 1.5% for anemia. Anemia is tested for people in the 19-29 age group. In Bengaluru city, 28.5% and 22% of the people are diagnosed with hypertension and diabetes, respectively.

The Gruha Arogya initiative covers 14 types of health issues for people over the age of 30 including hypertension, diabetes, chronic kidney diseases, anemia, non-alcoholic fatty liver disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, obstructive sleep apnea, mental health, neurological conditions, diabetic retinopathy, diabetic foot and three types of cancer including oral, breast and cervical.

A file photo of the launch of the pilot of Gruha Arogya, the healthcare to doorstep scheme by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao, Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy and others.

Disease incidence

District	Hypertension	Diabetes	Anaemia
Haveri	43.5%	31.9%	11.7
Udupi	38.6%	26%	4.49%
Kalaburagi	31.9%	17.9%	2.58%
Bengaluru	28.5%	22.0%	0.70%
Dakshina Kannada	21%	34%	0.60%

For oral cancer, ASHA workers across the state have been given a target of 1,67,70,495 and 7% of the target (11,92,436) have been screened. Out of this, 0.28% (3,403) have been referred to hospitals.

The breast and cervical cancer target has been set at 81,68,645, and 5,38,688 people have been screened for breast cancer. A total of 1,311 have people have been referred to hospitals.

A total of 3,85,714 have been screened for cervical cancer and 950 have been referred for treatment.

"People are becoming more aware of these diseases and they are able to get themselves checked routinely," Dr Raghunandan said.

The ASHA workers also keep a check on mental health by asking a set of questions and suspected cases are linked to government psychiatrists and telemanas, a national free tele-mental health assistance, he said.

I was always in the race for CM post, says Parameshwara

BENGALURU, DHNS

Amid intensifying power tussle within the ruling Congress Home Minister Parameshwara said on Sunday that "he was always in the race" for the chief minister's position.

Parameshwara

"I will always be in the race, what's the big matter in it? In 2013, I was the PCC (Pradesh Congress Committee) president. We brought the government. Till now, I have never said that I alone brought the government. Everyone worked in the party, people voted and helped us win. At that time, I lost the election. If I had won, don't know what would've happened."

Parameshwara, the then KPCC president, was referring to his loss in the 2013 Assembly election from Koratagere to Sudhakar Lal of the JD(S). Following a clear victory for the Congress, Siddaramaiah became the chief minister.

When asked if Siddaramaiah would continue as the chief minister now, Parameshwara replied that he (Siddaramaiah) had himself said so.

The Home minister denied any knowledge of the alleged power-sharing agreement between the chief minister and his deputy D K Shivakumar.

"I will also clarify that in the CLP meeting, AICC observers had come and we chose the chief minister. There was no talk of two-and-a-half years (agreement) then. We all chose the chief minister and he is there. Any change in the middle is left to our high command. Can we do anything like that?"

Parameshwara maintained that the high command could take a call on changing the chief minister, as it had done in earlier cases, including changing former chief minister S Bangarappa. However, when he was asked whether such he situation had arisen, Parameshwara answered: "I am not feeling that way."

Kharge lobs ball into the high command's court

Meanwhile, All India Congress Committee president Mallikarjun Kharge lobbed the ball onto the high command's court on Sunday, claiming that the party high command will take a call on the issue.

"You (media) have been standing here constantly for three days. I am very upset because if I say something without any issue, it won't be good... I don't have anything to tell you about these developments. So, if you keep waiting here, your time will also get wasted and I am also feeling sad that you are standing in heat and cold. Whatever there is will be done by the high command; you need not worry about this," Kharge told reporters.

DH Classifieds

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Accounts & Finance

WANTED EXPERIENCED Accounts Assistant with Tally, GST, Computer Knowledge. Reply mundhralighting@gmail.com 9986033339

Marketing & Sales

UNCLE'S WANTED Immediately BUSINESS EXECUTIVES. Smart Promotional SALES GIRLS/ BOYS. Best Salary. Walk-in Everyday 10am: 99000-54461/62

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REAL ESTATE BUYING

General

General

WANTED INDUSTRIES Runing or closed in Private or KIADB/ KSSIDC 10Guntas to 4Acres Bangalore Urban/ Rural. Wanted Residential/ Commercial from 4000 to 20000sft, and Agricultural Land 2 to 10Acres and above. Verna Developers, Barton Center, MG Road, Blr. 9620253180.

PERSONAL

Change of Name

CHANGE OF NAME I, **S.R.Rita** and **Rita Sreekanta Murthy** W/o late S. Sreekanta Murthy. Residing at # 352, 2nd B Cross, Girinagar 1st Phase, Banashankari 3rd Stage, Bengaluru-560085. State that the above two names are one and the same and they belong to me only. Vide affidavit dated 18.08.2025 before notary A.P. Sree.Urs, Mysuru.

CHANGE OF NAME I, **CLEMENT SINGH MARIADAS SUSEELY, M.S. CLEMENT SINGH & CLEMENT SINGH M.S,** residing at Villa 104, Prestige Lakeside Habitat,Varthur Road, Bengaluru-560087, declare that the above names pertain to me only.Henceforth I shall be known as **CLEMENT SINGH MARIADAS SUSEELY** vide affidavit 21.11.2025 before notary S. Samuel Solomon, Bengaluru

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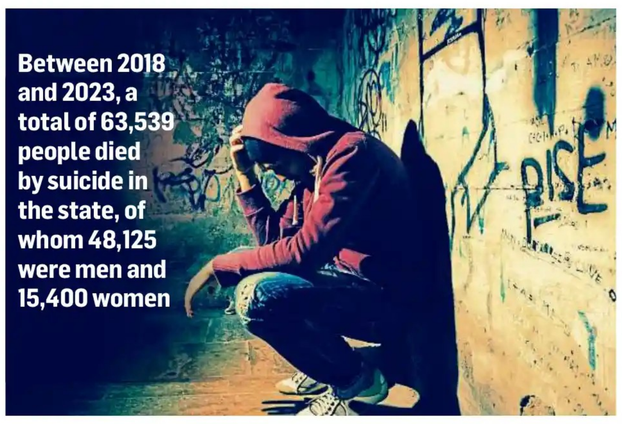


Between 2018 and 2023, a total of 63,539 people died by suicide in the state, of whom 48,125 were men and 15,400 women

Suicides higher among men than women: NCRB report

'No platforms or dedicated helplines for counselling men'

PAVAN KUMAR H
HUBBALLI, DHNS

In 2023, a total of 29 men died by suicide in Karnataka every day, according to the recent National Crimes Record Bureau (NCRB) report.

Family disputes, illness, mental issues, addictive substances and debts were the major reasons for the suicides.

The number of men ending their own life is steadily increasing over the last five years. Between 2018 and 2023, a total of 63,539 people died by suicide in the state, of whom 48,125 were men and 15,400 women.

According to the data released by the NCRB, nearly 13,330 people died by suicide in Karnataka between January 1 and December 31, 2023. Of them, nearly 10,232 were men and 3,091 women.

Compared to urban areas, suicides among rural men are higher, the data states.

Kalaburagi-based economist Sangeetha Kattimani, who analysed the NCRB data, says multiple factors, including work stress and family disputes, are silently killing men. Lack of mental health awareness among men needs to be addressed, she added.

Neeraj Shanthakumar, a men's activist, says there is a myth that men don't cry. "The actual issue is that a majority of men do not get a shoulder to cry on. There are no platforms or dedicated helplines for counseling," he says and adds that though the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017, has been introduced by the government, it has not been implemented yet.

Advocate Jyoti Pandey says men are constantly judged for seeking help. "This makes them fear or shame in seeking help. Society has conditioned that it is not 'manly' to ask for help. His masculinity will be questioned."

Madhu Bhushan, an independent feminist activist, says any person dying by suicide is a matter of concern and need to be addressed. A higher number of men are dying by suicide for various reasons, including farming, job loss, mental health and others. However, in the case of women it is more of a structured pattern and patriarchy. "Women are dying mostly due to domestic issues," she says.

SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL

Small pranticoles on their day out at Keribhosga village in Kalaburagi taluk on Sunday. DH PHOTO/TAJUDDIN AZAD

42K people in K'taka have complete deafness, 16-50 age group worst-affected

Most common deafness is noise-induced hearing loss

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

As the state government proposes to increase ENT services under the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Deafness in government hospitals across Karnataka, data from April to September 2025 shows that 41,846 people have complete deafness.

The 16-50 age group has reported the highest numbers at 23,253, followed by over-50s with 12,305 cases. The 16-50 age group also leads in mild, moderate, severe and profound deafness, making it a high-risk group. Last year (April 2024 to March 2025), the 16-50 age group had reported 37,613 cases of complete deafness.

Dr Soumya M S, senior ENT consultant, said there was a rise in younger people suffering from deafness.

"Most common deafness is 'Noise-Induced Hearing Loss', caused by the exposure to loud decibels. While earlier it was seen in factory workers, now it is an everyday affair. The continuous usage of earphones and headphones with loud rock music is mostly reported in GenZ patients," she added.

Next comes hearing loss induced by infections.

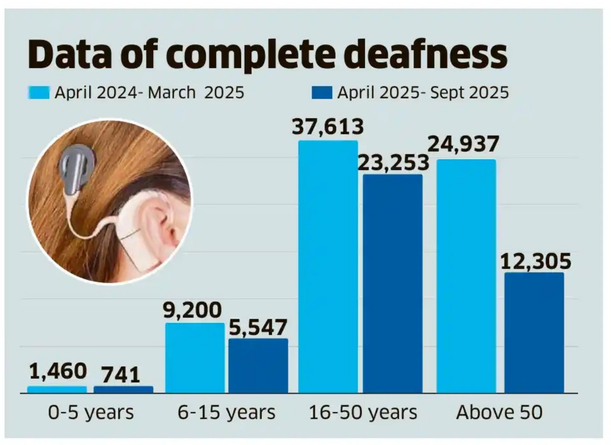
"Repeated infections in the ear cause deafness, especially during childhood. If these infections are ignored and the complete course of antibiotics is ignored as soon as the patient feels better, it finally leads to deafness," Dr Soumya noted.

If a person is suddenly not able to hear, they should visit the doctor within 48 hours — the golden period. While damage cannot be reversed, further damage can be stopped, she added.

Dr Chandrashekhar S, senior ENT consultant, highlighted the importance of safe ear cleaning. "Deafness is also caused due to perforation of eardrums while using cotton swabs or earbuds."

People take ear care for granted and insert keys, nail filers and other sharp objects, further damaging ears, he added.

Speaking about the increase in deafness in the elderly population, Dr E V Raman, another senior ENT consultant, said: "While it is common in old age to suffer from deafness, rising lifespans have increased the numbers. Along with it, uncontrolled diabetes and blood pressure have also impacted the number of patients."



No one man can take credit for Cong coming to power: Satish in veiled dig at DKS

BELAGAVI, DHNS: Minister for Public Works Satish Jarkiholi took a veiled dig at Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, on Sunday, saying that he doesn't agree if some people think that the Congress came to power in the state by their efforts alone.

Taking sole credit would amount to doing injustice to the party workers and leaders who toiled for the party's victory in the elections, Jarkiholi said, dismissing claims of 'sacrifice by some people'. He was speaking to reporters in the city.

Satish Jarkiholi

"The party didn't ascend to power due to the work of any one person. We all became ministers and MLAs thanks to the 1.25 crore voters who chose us," the minister said.

"Dr G Parameshwara has worked as KPCC president for eight years. He is among leaders whose efforts were responsible for the party coming to power and so, I feel he should get an opportunity to be chief minister," Jarkiholi said.

Parameshwara, a Dalit leader, has expressed his desire to be CM in the past also and there is nothing wrong in it, the minister said.

"Dalits and the minorities are the Congress party's steadfast voters. So, these communities should get representation," the veteran leader said.

It is the party high command that decides on who should be CM, adding that he knows nothing about the power-sharing agreement between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar.

He said he would "definitely" go to Delhi, if he was called for any discussion on the issue of leadership.

Jarkiholi refused to comment on whether he was in the race for the post of chief minister.

3 killed in head-on bike collision

BIDAR, DHNS: Three persons died and three sustained injuries in a head-on collision between two motorbikes near Kannalli in Bidar taluk on Saturday night.

The deceased have been identified as Mallikarjun Joladapake (40), his daughter Mahalakshmi (5) and Pavan Chandrappa Vagge (30). While the girl died at the hospital the other two succumbed to injuries in BRIMS Hospital. Janavada police have registered a case.

Siddu won't quit even if Cong top brass orders: Shettar

Belgaum MP Jagadish Shettar said on Sunday that Siddaramaiah won't quit as chief minister even if the Congress high command instructed him to do so, so that Shivakumar could take over, reports DHNS from Hubballi.

"Siddaramaiah will not resign from the post and he will not listen to anyone's instruction. But Shivakumar will continue to put pressure on the party. As a result of the fight between these two leaders, the Congress government will collapse," he told reporters in Hubballi.

Mahadevappa, Venkatesh visit Kharge

BENGALURU, DHNS

Senior ministers Dr H C Mahadevappa and K Venkatesh called on AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge at the latter's residence here on Sunday, though Mahadevappa dubbed it a "courtesy call".

"The AICC president was here (Bengaluru) for two-three days. This is a courtesy call. We came and met. We discussed about party affairs and elections," Mahadevappa told reporters.

Mahadevappa, the social welfare minister, and Venkatesh, the animal husbandry minister, have for long been loyalists of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

When asked about Home Minister G Parameshwara's comment that "he has always been in the race" for the chief minister's position, the social welfare minister said: "There's no race as of now. I don't know what he has said, but there's no race".

He noted that a Congress chief minister would remain till 2028, adding that the grand old party would return to power after the polls that year.

When asked if Siddaramaiah would complete a full five-year term, Mahadevappa maintained that a "Congress CM" would be there.

When asked if the long-standing demand for a Dalit chief minister would materialise after 2028, he said: "Then, anything can happen. Even that is left to the high command".

Hebbalkar calls on party president

Women and Child Development Minister Laxmi Hebbalkar also visited Kharge on Sunday.

"I had come to invite the party president for an event on November 28. He has confirmed his participation".

2011 norms prohibit Sharavathi project: Activist

BENGALURU, DHNS: Amid wide opposition to the proposed pumped storage project in the Sharavathi Lion Tailed Macaque (LTM) sanctuary, an activist has written to the Union environment ministry stating that allowing the project would lead to violation of its directions as well as Supreme Court order.

The Karnataka Power Corporation Limited has submitted a proposal to generate 2000 MW by building an underground powerhouse between Talakalale and Gerusoppa dams. The authority has sought a total of 352.77 acres, of which 133.81 acres are evergreen forest - home to the endangered LTMs.

Girish Achar of the Jana Sangrama Parishath pointed out that the apex court on April 28, 2023 had upheld the need to protect national parks and wildlife sanctuaries in a case related to mining. The court had said that the 2011 guidelines issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) should be followed. The guidelines prohibit the establishment of major hydroelectric projects in the eco-sensitive zone of the protected areas.

The memorandum said that as per the revised guidelines issued by MoEF&CC dated December 13, 2023 on seeking recommendations of the standing committee of the National Board of Wildlife for prohibited activities, such proposals should not be forwarded for consideration, Achar said.

Modi calls for

Modi, From Page 1

Trump boycotted the 20th G20 summit hosted by President Cyril Ramaphosa, alleging persecution of white Afrikaners in South Africa.

The US has argued that excessive regulation could kill the transformative sector, and safety concerns should not stymie growth of AI.

"India's approach to AI is anchored on three pillars — equitable access, population-scale skilling and responsible deployment," Modi said at the summit. "Under India-AI Mission, we are developing accessible high-performance computing so that benefits of AI reach every district and every language," he said.

The PM said India would host AI Impact Summit in Delhi in Feb 2026, with theme: 'Sarvajana Hitaya, Sarvajana Sukhaya' – welfare for all, happiness for all. He invited all G20 nations to the summit.

Maha CM rules out rift with Eknath Shinde, defends Ajit Pawar

Shinde too rules out any disagreement with Fadnavis

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

Amid tumultuous times for the BJP-led ruling Maha Yuti dispensation in Maharashtra, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Sunday dismissed reports about differences with Deputy CM and Shiv Sena chief Eknath Shinde, who has been reportedly upset over being sidelined, and the other DyCM, NCP chief Ajit Pawar, who is under fire for his "no votes-no funds" remark.

This is the first time Fadnavis, the BJP's troubleshooter, spoke about the two issues in detail, asserting that everything was fine with the nearly one-year-old tripartite coalition.

The development came days before the commencement of the Winter session of the Maharashtra legislature in Nagpur, during which the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) is expected to target the government.

'No differences'

Fadnavis said there were no differences between him and Shinde, who last week airdashed to New Delhi and met BJP stalwart and Union Home Minister Amit Shah after several Shiv Sena ministers boycotted a Cabinet meeting over the alleged poaching of politicians.

Devendra Fadnavis

"We, Shinde saheb and I, met the day before yesterday as well at the Hutatma Smarak programme... We spoke when we arrived... We even discussed each other's programme. Similarly, we met and spoke at a programme yesterday," he said.

Shinde, on his part, also denied any rift. "We have to stop this kind of 'breaking news' somewhere," he said.

'Pawar did not mean it'

Reacting to the criticism of Pawar, who is also the state's finance and planning minister, Fadnavis said his deputy might not have meant it when he told voters during campaigning on Friday for elections to the Malegaon Nagar Panchayat in the Pune district's Baramati tehsil that he would ensure there was no shortage of funds for the town if they elected his party's candidates, but if they rejected them, he will also "reject".

"Many times, a lot of things are said during (election) meetings... It does not mean the same. Even if our ally or someone said anything like that, it was not their intention, and they would never do such discrimination. And the people will certainly elect the Maha Yuti in the coming elections, though we may fight separately in some places," he said.

On his part, Pawar clarified that in no way was his statement a threat.

"The Central and the state governments have many schemes. The prime minister, CM, and both DyCMs have worked on these together. If all of us work together and implement these schemes properly, we can ensure development for Malegaon," he said Pawar.

"I said what I had to say. Now it's up to the opposition on what they want to say; it is their constitutional right," he added.

New Bill proposes penalty for govt job outsourcing

Outsourcing, From Page 1

The 'Bidar model' refers to contractual appointment of outsourced employees through district-level workers' services multi-purpose cooperative societies headed by the respective deputy commissioners.

According to a document by the labour department, the 'Bidar model' seeks to register at least 1,000 workers in each district and provide them social security benefits like Provident Fund (PF), Employees State Insurance (ESI) and timely wages. The model, which is being adopted in Mysuru, Tumakuru and Dharwad districts, will now be implemented across the state before the provisions of the new law come into effect.

Weightage, age relaxation

According to the Bill, the state government may grant "weightage" and age relaxation to outsourced employees in every direct recruitment conducted to regular Group C and D posts by the Karnataka Public Service Commission or any public-sector recruiting authority.

Every recruitment notification issued after the commencement of this Act shall mandatorily incorporate the provision, the Bill adds.

The development comes after extensive discussions for over a month in a Cabinet sub-committee headed by Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister HK Patil.

On November 21, *DH* had reported that the Cabinet sub-committee had recommended ending job outsourcing by March 2028, and that a Bill would soon be introduced in this regard.

'Introduce direct payment'

The All India Central Council of Trade Unions (AICCTU) had written to Patil, urging the government to bring all contract labourers under the direct payment system.

AICCTU State Secretary Maitreyi Krishnan welcomed the sub-committee's decision to end job outsourcing, but felt it must be done immediately instead of waiting till 2028. She argued that the direct payment system was "time-tested" and better than the 'Bidar model', "which would replace one contractor with another".

The AICCTU also sought wages for contract labourers on par with regular employees in accordance with the 'equal pay for equal work' principle. Until then, the trade union sought a minimum monthly wage of Rs 42,000 for contract workers.

Traffic violations by delivery agents soar in B'luru

Violations, from Page 1

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic, East) Sahil Bagla noted that major hotspots in his division had registered a high number of cases. To counter this rising trend, police are regularly conducting special drives to address visible violations.

The perils of instant commerce

The officer noted the 10-minute delivery pressure forces agents to break traffic rules, and suggested that a better solution must come from the companies or aggregators themselves.

The South Division also reported a major spike, with 44,313 cases. Areas under Mico Layout, Adugodi, and HSR Layout traffic police station limits consistently reported high numbers.

A significant hurdle was presented by e-bike violators. Since these vehicles are often treated like bicycles, they do not come under the Motor Vehicles Act, meaning the police cannot take action or fine those riders for certain violations, according to Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic, South) Gopal M Byakod.

The officer said a recent meeting chaired by the police commissioner had given instructions to food and delivery aggregators regarding traffic violations. Instructions were also issued at the police station level. Stringent measures like driver licence suspension and vehicle impoundment against repeat offenders are likely to be discussed in future meetings, he noted.

What delivery execs say

A food delivery executive questioned the need for risking lives to get Maggi or atta delivered in 10 minutes. "Food and groceries are not emergency items like medicines or ambulances that have to be delivered within a short time," he pointed out.

According to him, "We are constantly worried about time. The company monitors us constantly, and if we are late even by a minute, the next delivery allocation is affected, which means less money for the day," he added.

State govt violated SC orders...

Mining, from Page 1

The committee flagged several violations, comparing the conditions imposed by the apex court in 2015 with the state government's conditions during the bidding process.

It noted that the amalgamation itself was a clear violation as it changed the mining boundary. This is because the legal regime for treatment of 'C' category mines is different from that of the 'A' (legal) and 'B' (partly legal) category mines and the virgin fresh forest lands. The 'C' category mines required a comprehensive R&R programme.

Apart from the issues with amalgamation, the CEC pointed out that while the apex court had limited the auction to end-users engaged in producing iron, steel or pellets, the government auctioned the five blocks without any such restrictions.

Moreover, the court had ordered that the production limit should be as prescribed under the rehabilitation and resettlement (R&R) plan. In the present case, the government allowed the preferred bidder to prepare the R&R plan, instead of government agencies, opening the door for potential opaque practices.

The court had also put a condition mandating the dispatch of 50% of the permissible annual production. "In the new system, as there are no provisions of guaranteed dispatch, the state government may suffer a loss of yearly revenue," the CEC said.

The Supreme Court has ruled that 25% of the sale proceeds of the auction in 'C' category mines should go to the special purpose vehicle (SPV) to restore mining-affected areas. However, in the case of the amalgamated blocks, the amount to be transferred to the SPV will be only 10% of the sale proceeds, the report noted.

Further, the committee observed that R&R plans were not prepared for 'C' category mines in some cases. It cited the lack of such plans for 'C' category mines in Jaisinghpura North and Somanahalli blocks.

S R Hiremath of the NGO Samaj Parivartana Samudaya said the report not only highlights the series of violations but also underscores the government's failure to restore mining-affected areas.

"We will file a response in the Supreme Court, requesting a comprehensive view of the situation. The larger issue is the iron ore production itself. The oversight authority of the Karnataka Mining Environment Restoration Corporation had preferred a production cap of 20 million tonne per annum (MTPA). However, the monitoring committee and the CEC want the production at 57 MTPA; this is at a time when people are unable to bear the destruction and pollution caused by the current production levels of 50 MTPA," he said.

Bengaluru's iconic Majestic bus station...

Majestic, from Page 1

Multi-storey commecial towers will rise at the site, along with retail hubs at the interchange points, a senior KSRTC official said.

"The private player will invest in the project and share revenue with us as per a mutually agreed formula. We will not be investing anything," the official added. "The bus station, as we know it today, will be a thing of the past. It will be transformed into a futuristic hub with better connectivity," the official explained. To minimise disruptions in bus operations, the work will be carried out in phases, the official noted.

For seamless integration, the plan is to directly connect the concourses of the bus stations with metro and railway stations, including a direct passage to the railway station canopy. The consultant will assess the technical feasibility of these integration points, he added. Although the bus and railway stations are currently connected via three subways maintained by the civic authorities, passengers find them difficult due to hawking, illicit activities and poor maintenance.

"In the redevelopment model, the private player will maintain and monetise these interchange spaces," the official said. Built on the dried Dharmambudhi lakebed, the bus station opened in 1969. Before that, the city did not have a proper bus station. Buses stopped near Tulasi Thota on Thotada Chatrappa Road to pick up and drop off passengers.

Fake ED officials flee with jewellery worth Rs 3 crore

HUBBALLI, DHNS: A gang of five men posing as Enforcement Directorate (ED) officials took away gold jewellery worth more than Rs 3 crore in Hubballi.

According to the complaint, the gang intercepted a Kerala-based jewellery trader near Chennamma Circle on Neeligin Road on Nov 20 and made away with 2.942 kg of gold jewellery and Rs 2 lakh in cash.

The victim, Sudeen, is a travelling jewellery merchant who routinely carries ornaments to jewellery stores to take orders. On Nov 15, he had travelled from Mangaluru to Belagavi with assorted jewellery — chains, bracelets, rings, earrings, necklaces, mangalsutras, lockets and bangles. He had taken orders from shops in Belagavi, Dharwad and Hubballi and was staying at a hotel opposite the old bus stand.

On November 20, while returning to his hotel after visiting Dharwad, the group stopped him on Neeligin Road, spoke to him in Hindi, flashed fake identity cards and asked him to come for 'questioning'. They threatened the victim saying he was involved in illegal gold trading. They forced him and his worker Vivek into their vehicle and snatched their phones.

On their way to Belagavi, the accused dropped Vivek in Kittur, Sudeen at M K Hubballi and escaped with gold and cash. Hubballi-Dharwad police commissioner N Shashi Kumar said it might be the act of persons known to the victim.

WEATHER

Overview: Rainfall occurred at many places over Coastal, at a few places over South Interior and dry weather prevailed over North Interior Karnataka. Forecast Nov 24: Generally cloudy sky. Light to moderate rain likely.

INTERIOR NORTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Belagavi	31.0	18.6	0.0
Bidar	30.2	15.2	0.0
Vijayapura	29.6	17.0	0.0
Dharwad	29.4	18.8	0.0
Haveri	29.0	19.6	0.0
Kalaburagi	33.2	20.0	0.0
Raichur	30.8	19.0	0.0
COASTAL			
Honnavar	35.3	21.6	0.0
Karwar	36.0	24.6	0.0
Shirali	NA	NA	NA
Mangaluru	31.7	21.9	16.5

INTERIOR SOUTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Agumbe	—	—	—
Bengaluru	27.7	18.9	0.0
Ballari	NA	NA	NA
Chamarajanagar	—	—	—
Chikkamagaluru	—	—	—
Chitradurga	28.1	20.0	0.0
Davangere	28.0	16.0	0.0
Hassan	33.3	NA	—
Mysuru	—	—	—
Madikeri	—	—	—
Kolar	27.8	17.6	0.0

OTHER STATIONS

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
New Delhi	25.0	11.0	NIL
Kolkata	29.0	19.0	NIL
Mumbai	31.0	27.0	NA
Chennai	30.0	27.0	NA
Pune	31.0	18.0	NA
Hyderabad	29.0	19.0	NA
[illegible]	28.0	24.0	NIL

Karnataka Urban Water Supply and Drainage Board
Office of the Chief Engineer, Dharwad
Sir M. Vishveshvarayya Road, Dharwad-580 001.
Ph No. : 0836-2447090, E-mail : kwbcen@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (Through e-Procurement Portal only)

Tender for the following work is invited (two tender document system) through e-Procurement portal (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) from the eligible Agency / contractors who satisfy the Technical & Financial eligibility criteria. This office Tender Notification No: 1786 Dated: **19-11-2025** Supply, Installation, Testing and Successful Commissioning of Flow & Water Quality Monitoring system along with PLC/RTU Hardware with SCADA and allied Electrical & Mechanical (E&M) components for water supply from the source to over head tanks under WSS to Badami, Kerur towns and 18 enroute villages. (Lump sum Tender No Variation) including O&M period of 3 years (including DLP period of 1 year). INDENT NO. KUWSDB/2025-26/WS/435. For further information visit e-procurement portal or the Office of the Chief Engineer, K.U.W.S & D. Board, Dharwad may be contacted.

DIPR/DWD/KSMCA/897/2025-26
Sd/- Chief Engineer,
KUWS & D Board, Dharwad.

ರಾಣಿ ಚನ್ನಮ್ಮ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ

ವಿದ್ಯಾಸಂಗಮ, ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಹೆದ್ದಾರಿ–04, ಭೂತರಾಯನಹಟ್ಟಿ, ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ–591156
(ನ್ಯಾಕ್ ಮಾನ್ಯತೆ B+ ಗ್ರೇಡ್ –2021) PM USHA (MERU)
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Website: www.rcub.ac.in
Phone No.: 0831-2565237

ಸಂ: ರಾಚವಿ/ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ/ಪವಿ/2025–26/7039
ದಿನಾಂಕ: 22–01–2025

SHORT TERM RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through KPP Portal)

Registrar(Evaluation), Rani Channamma University, Belagavi has called short term re-tender for Management of Examination Tabulation Activities in RCU Belagavi through KPP Portal from 22.11.2025. Registered companies may apply through Website: http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Tender must be uploaded at e-portal within 01.12.2025 before 05.00 PM. EMD amount for the tender is Rs.8,00,000/-. For further details visit www.rcub.ac.in or contact Exam Section, Rani Channamma University, Belagavi

Sd/- Registrar (Evaluation)
Rani Channamma University, Belagavi

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(Affiliated to Directorate of Municipal Administration, GoK)
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Ph: 080-23464332 / 35 URL : www.cmak.municipaladmn.gov.in

No. CMAK/Recruitment/2025-26/
Date: 21.11.2025

NOTIFICATION

General Secretary CMAK, Bangalore invites application from the interested eligible candidates for CMAK on yearly renewable contractual basis.

Sl NO	Designation	No of Post	Qualification	Age below (as on Nov 2025)	Consultancy Fees / Remuneration (Consolidated)
1	Research Associate (Urban Planning & Infrastructure)	1	Master Degree in Urban and Regional Planning / Urban Studies/ Transportation Engineering / Town planning / Highway Engineering Minimum 2 years of experience in relevant projects / experience in similar fields at Government Sector is desirable. Experienced candidates in the areas of public housing, urban planning, urban traffic and transportation, Municipal Infrastructure projects are preferred. It is mandatory for the successful candidates to carry out research and expected to bring out publications/ documentation in quality reports. Proficiency in both Kannada & English language is must.	35 Years	31850.00
2	Research Associate (Water & Waste Water Management)	1	Master Degree in Water Resources / Environmental Science / Health & Sanitation Engineering with 2 years' experience in relevant projects / similar fields at Government Sector. Experienced candidates should have good knowledge of Water & Waste Water Management, Methodologies for conservation, treatment, rainwater harvesting, recharge. City Sanitation strategy preparation, implementation, waste water treatment methods, STP/TTP plant, UGD, Septage, Sludge treatments & water purification methods etc., It is mandatory for the successful candidates to carry out research and are expected to bring out publications in quality reports. Proficiency in both Kannada & English language is must.	35 Years	31850.00
3	Data Entry Operator	1	Any degree from a recognised University with experience in 3 years in Government Sector Knowledge of data entry, drafting of letters in Kannada & English, Meeting Proceedings, File correspondence, computer knowledge in MS Office like MS word, excel & power point presentation etc.,	40 Years	21400.00
4	Dalayath / Group D	1	Must pass in 7th Standard with 2-3 years experience in Government Sector	40 Years	17000.00

Other Terms: **(1)** Candidates shall have willing to travel within India. Knowledge of MS office, proficiency in English & Kannada language is required. The interested candidates may fill the information in the format uploaded in the CMAK website & send along with their resume mentioning post applied with complete information & Contact details along with copies of Degree / Post-graduation certificates & Marks Card, SSLC & 7th Standard (Group D) Marks card for age proof and experience certificates by hand or post to: **General Secretary, City Managers Association Karnataka, No 42, "Sanjeevini" 1st floor, 4th Cross, Sampige Road, Malleshwaram, Bangalore – 560003.** For more details browse **www.cmak.municipaladmn.gov.in.** The candidates should send their application **on or before 06-12-2025 by 5.00 pm.** **(2)** General Secretary, CMAK has right to reject any or all the applications without assigning any reasons.

Sd/- General Secretary, CMAK
& Director, Directorate of Municipal Administration, Bangalore

DIPR/CP/YC/3956/2025-26

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No: CEE/Tr(Op)ZB/SEE(O)/AE-2/NEL/F-482(1)/2025-26/7266 Date:21.11.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPPP mode only)

KPTCL invites bid against the enquiry no: KPTCL/CEE/T(O)Z/BZ/PTK-16 (CALL-2),for the work **"Augmentation of 2x20MVA Power Transformers by 2x31.5MVA 66/11kV Power Transformers and other associated works at 66/11kV Kodigehalli sub-station coming under Operations Division, Nelamangala on Partial Turnkey Basis including supply of all matching materials (Excluding Supply of Power Transformers, NIFPS, and 11kV Switchgears)/ equipments and erection (including civil works) of all materials/equipments, testing and commissioning".** The bids will be received through KPP Portal only. The details regarding participation in the E tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink **"E Procurement KPTCL"** or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **24.11.2025.** Other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Chief Engineer (Ele), Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL, A.R. Circle, Bengaluru-09

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
U R RAO SATELLITE CENTRE
HAL Airport Road, Vimanapura Post, Bangalore - 560017
CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP
(Phone : 080 25084168, 4175, 4169) (Fax:080 25084155)
BRIEF E-TENDER NOTICE

1. On behalf of President of India, item rate tenders are invited for the following work.

Description	Details
Name of work	Replacement of Package AC Units installed at RRSC, ISITE, Campus, Marathahalli, Bengaluru-560037
E-Tender Notice	No. URSC/CandMG/ACMD/0050/ETN-06/ 2025-26 Dt. 21.11.2025
Estimated cost put to Tender	₹ 16.03Lakhs
Tender Document Details	**E-Tender**
Period of completion in months reckoned from the 15th day of date of issue of work order	180 days / 06 months
Period during which the tender document can be downloaded.	From 10:30 Hrs. on 24.11.2025 to 16:30Hrs. on 05.12.2025
Bid clarification	From 11:00 Hrs. on 24.11.2025 to 17:00 Hrs. on 08.12.2025
Last date and time of reply to Bid clarification.	Upto 17:00hrs on 09.12.2025
Last date and time for receipt of tenders.	Upto 14:30 Hrs. on 15.12.2025
Due date and time of opening of tenders.	After 15:00 Hrs. on 15.12.2025
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	**₹ 32,060/- (Validity for 180 days)**

2. Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting E-Tender (NIET) for eligibility criteria and other details along with Hindi version in website: **www.isro.gov.in** and download the tender documents from **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**

Sd/-
Group Director (Construction & Maintenance Group)

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

So did no one kill Akhlaq Ahmed?

The Uttar Pradesh government's move to withdraw charges against those accused of lynching Akhlaq Ahmed is a brazen attack on rule of law and justice. He was lynched by a mob in 2015 on the suspicion that he had slaughtered a cow and eaten beef in a village near Dadri in western UP. The government has sought withdrawal of cases against all 18 accused on the grounds that witness statements are inconsistent. In a Gautam Buddha Nagar court, the prosecution has that there is "there is no evidence of previous enmity or rivalry" between Akhlaq's family and the accused, and the cases should be withdrawn "for the larger purpose of restoring social harmony." The killing of Akhlaq a few months after the first Narendra Modi government assumed office had attracted national attention and triggered an uproar. The incident set the trend for the killings and atrocities committed by cow vigilantes in UP and other states in later years.

The lynching had triggered protests all over the country. Political parties, groups, organisations and individuals, including prominent personalities, had expressed concern over the incident. Many writers and artists had returned the awards and honours they had received from the government in a movement that came to be known as 'award wapsi' to protest against the incident and the government's silence. Some in the Sangh Parivar indirectly defended it, others said it was the work of fringe elements. It took time for the case to move forward. The accused are now out on bail. Charges were formally framed only in 2021, and five of the 25 witnesses have already deposed. There is no sound reason for withdrawal of the cases. During the investigation, the meat kept in Akhlaq's house was found to be mutton, but the police later claimed that on further examination they found it to be beef. A case was also filed against Akhlaq and his family for keeping beef at home.

UP govt move to save those accused in the 2015 mob lynching is deeply disturbing

The western UP village where the incident occurred, and the area around it, are communally split after the incident. The lynching contributed to increased polarisation, and the spread of hate politics in the country. Rumours about keeping or eating beef and transportation of cows are used as excuses to harass and even kill Muslims. A number of states have made their anti-cow slaughter laws more stringent. Anti-beef and anti-Muslim campaigns have been normalised. The move for withdrawal of the cases should be seen against this background. The withdrawal would mean that no one killed Akhlaq. The real meaning would be that it is no crime to kill a person by calling him a beef-eater.

Sunshine deficit is a rising problem

The findings of a recent study, indicating that sunshine hours have declined in most parts of India in the last three decades, will have implications in many areas. The impact will cover health, agriculture, business, and work patterns. According to the study made by scientists from the India Meteorological Department (IMD) and Benares Hindu University (BHU), sunlight hours have shrunk because of changes in local weather, aerosols and clouds. The sun has dimmed because its rays are scattered and weakened by clouds and aerosols, resulting in a thickening of the atmosphere. Aerosols are minuscule particles emanating from dust, vehicle exhaust, crop burning, and other sources that pervade the atmosphere. They stay in the air long enough to affect sunlight, climate and health. It is estimated that they have reduced the amount of sunlight by about 13%. Clouds have caused an additional 31-44% drop in surface solar radiation between 1993 and 2022.

The decline in sunlight hours has been noticed all over the country. The rate of decrease varies across regions. The northern and coastal parts of India, and places like Amritsar, Kolkata and Mumbai, have experienced the worst decline. The impact varies according to the degree of urbanisation, scale of industrialisation, intensity of traffic, generation of construction dust, and other factors that contribute to air pollution. Seasonal variations are also observed. The dimming happens even though the earth's surface has been receiving more sunlight since the 1980s, because of a phenomenon called global brightening. India is unable to take advantage of this because of the rising air pollution in the country. India is not the only loser. Other countries also where pollution levels are high have experienced reduced hours of sunlight. But some have regained their sunlight when pollution levels fell. It has been noticed that enforcement of stricter laws against air pollution in the 1990s resulted in a recovery of sunlight across Europe.

The sun has dimmed, and that is bad news for all living beings

The variations in sunlight affect the biological rhythm of all living creatures, including humans, animals and plants, giving rise to unknown health problems. These problems manifest slowly, but over time, they impact lives and lifestyles. Agriculture will be affected because plants are sensitive to sunlight. Yield losses have been noticed in the Indo-Gangetic plains because of the stress caused to plants by reduced sunlight. Energy production will be seriously affected. Solar energy output, which has a high place in the country's future energy plans, will be seriously hit as solar panel efficiency may come down by up to 40%. There are consequences in other areas also. They should be reminders of the need to clean up the air and let more sunlight in.

CASTE IN THOUGHT

Remembering the Havanur 'Bible'

The 1975 Backward Classes Commission report was a landmark document, ahead of its time in vision and method

SATISH DESHPANDE

November 19 this year marked the fiftieth anniversary of a significant event in the history of the continuing struggle for social justice in India.

On this day in 1975, the then chairperson of the Karnataka Backward Classes Commission (KBCC), the lawyer, legal scholar and activist L G Havanur presented his commission's report to Devaraj Urs, the then chief minister of Karnataka.

Though a bust of Havanur was unveiled by the current chief minister and deputy chief minister and a commemorative event was held by caste associations in Bengaluru on November 19, 2025, the anniversary seems to have escaped the notice of the dominant media.

It is a known feature of our rapidly eroding federal structure that certain states have played a disproportionately important role in directing the path of the Union in particular areas.

Just as Assam has shaped the Indian State's thinking on citizenship, Karnataka has impacted the nation's laws and policies addressing the "Other Backward Classes" (OBCs), arguably in a more progressive direction.

The Report of the Second Karnataka Backward Classes Commission–known as the Havanur Report, famously termed the "Bible of the Backward Classes" by Devaraj Urs – marks the moment when this influence became recognisable.

The four-volume report (a 353-page main text, with three volumes of supporting evidence, including a primary sample survey of 3.5 lakh persons across all the districts of Karnataka) is a landmark document for both conceptual and practical reasons.

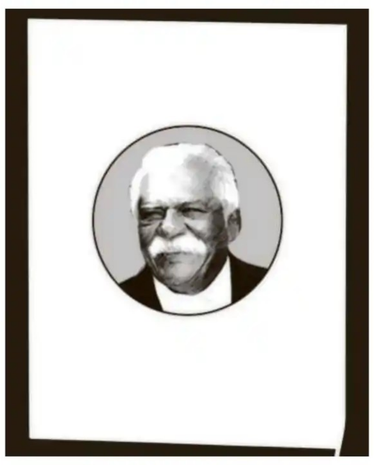
Its most important conceptual contribution – clearly visible only in retrospect – is that it shows us what it might mean to think with caste rather than to think about or from within caste.

Thinking from within caste means that one is limited to a caste-specific view of the world, with its obvious problems for nation building. However, this caste-based view is at least aware of its own standpoint, though unable (or unwilling) to transcend it.

Thinking about caste is the sort of thinking that dominated caste policy (or non-policy) in the Nehru era, where the standpoint is that of an abstract, asocial "casteless" individual acutely aware of the moral indefensibility of caste but unaware of its continuing influence.

Thinking with caste is the challenging art of acknowledging the insidious influence of caste and yet struggling to think beyond it – a new social response to caste without denial or immersion.

A concrete example will help: Appendix I of Part II of Havanur Report, effectively the first item of supporting evidence, is titled "Caste composition of



the Commission and Staff", which lists the actual castes and sub-castes (*jatis*) of everyone from the Chairman down to the lowest ranking staffer.

Unifying thought and action

As Indians, we have become used to the split between public language and private actions on caste. Every commission, Cabinet, or other body of power is immediately analysed for its caste composition, but we – and especially the members of such bodies themselves – never speak about this in their public roles.

We may argue about how successful its effort was, but we cannot deny that the Havanur Report was trying to break out of this split mindset by explicitly and officially recording its own "caste".

A second set of conceptual contributions have to do with the jurisprudence on caste. Laxman Gulappa Havanur, who began his career as an activist-advocate in the small town of Ranebennur in northern Karnataka, was already a legal scholar noted for his contributions to caste law at the time he was appointed to the KBCC in 1972 (His writings, especially the 1965 essay *Specifying the Backward Classes Without the 'Caste' Basis* are repeatedly cited in Marc Galanter's classic work, *Competing Equalities: Law and the Backward Classes in India*).

The best example here is the long-standing problem of conflating caste as the name for a social group (i.e., a noun) and caste as the marker of a status-position in a hierarchy (i.e., an adjective).

As Galanter notes, Havanur was the first to recognise this problem and try to figure out how to work with both without collapsing one into the other. This problem is still with us in the context of the identification of particular castes as "backward" – can one take membership in a caste by itself to be an indicator, or must there always be reference to external evidence, such as educational levels or occupation etc?

Produced after a string of important cases in the (then) Mysore High Court had led to important shifts in the approach of the Supreme Court, the Havanur Report tries its best to negotiate this difference with clarity and explicit justification.

As for its practical and methodological contributions, one can simply say that the Havanur Report is the first significant example in independent India of a conscious attempt to produce what is now called "evidence-based policy".

Apart from conducting a pioneering socio-economic sample survey covering the entire state, the Havanur Report used numerous other sources of evidence including recorded testimony of 365 witnesses; seminars with jurists, academics and caste associations; study tours of the state; analysis of secondary data (census and various government departments); and consultations with organisations and individual experts.

With a skeletal staff and minimal resources, Havanur managed to produce a Report that, despite inevitable flaws, was ahead of its time in vision and method.

In an obituary note (L G Havanur died in September 2006) in *DH*, V K Nataraj (former Director of the Madras Institute of Development Studies) recounted how the chairman of the KBCC would come on his scooter to take him to the Government Press where they would work on proof-reading the report.

Hopefully, the newly unveiled bust at the Karnataka State Commission for the Backward Classes will not remain the only recognition accorded this landmark document.

(The author is a former teacher of sociology, now an independent scholar based in Bengaluru)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Missing passport, slipping pride

I knew it was misplaced, but the search still tested my nerves

N SUNDAR

What happens when you forget where you left your passport pouch—especially when you are moving lock, stock and barrel from one state to another state? A feeling of despair? An overwhelming urge to kick yourself in the back, which you cannot do for obvious reasons? Do you rack your brain trying to sequence the events – when you last looked at it and for what purpose? Did you take the passport out for any specific task, such as checking the expiry date or renewing your visa? And after all that, do you still draw a complete blank?

Well, that is exactly what happened to yours truly. It began when we moved base to our new house in a different state sometime back. We flew in, and a couple of days later the vehicle carrying our household goods arrived. We went about our job of unpacking the cartons and getting the house in order when I suddenly realised that my passport was not in the hand baggage I had brought along. Sheepishly, I asked my better half if she had seen it or packed it along with her personal effects. She gave me a look loaded with disdain and, with a shrug, replied in the negative.

A sense of despondency came over me, and my temper grew increasingly short. Matters went from bad to worse over the next couple of days as the search yielded no results. I had the distinct feeling that my better half was trying to prove a point, as she repeatedly questioned where I had kept it while packing my things. The message was simple and clear, without her saying it in as many words: she was far more capable of taking care of important documents than I was. I had no option but to swallow my pride.

With the *status quo* continuing for days, I began looking up the procedure for obtaining a new passport. Realising that I would need to file an FIR reporting the loss, I wondered whether to register it at the new location or the old. However, my intuition kept telling me that the passport was merely misplaced, not lost.

The only way to salvage any pride was to find it, and the best chance lay in searching through the remaining unopened cartons with a fine-tooth comb, hoping for a miracle. With this objective, we both set about the task in all earnestness.

Lo and behold, the passport pouch turned up in one of the cartons filled with empty handbags and purses—and there was a collective sigh of relief. Alas, it was my wife who opened that particular carton, and, needless to say, she had the last laugh.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

India must equip its young with financial literacy

Apropos 'Young investors dive into markets, blind to big risks' (Nov 23), it is concerning that India's young investors have embraced the stock market and high-risk financial instruments without adequately understanding the dangers involved. Fuelled by social media influencers, rapid-trading apps, and the glamorisation of overnight profits, many young Indians are moving their savings away from traditional bank deposits and into volatile markets. This shift reflects confidence and ambition, yet it also exposes a lack of financial literacy. Instead of viewing markets as long-term wealth-building avenues, many treat them like casinos, chasing quick returns. They jump into equities, options, and crypto assets without studying fundamentals, diversification, or risk management. Unless this attitude changes and financial education improves, India may witness a generation burdened by unnecessary financial setbacks instead of being empowered by informed investment.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, Bengaluru

Recovery is reassuring

The Bengaluru cash van robbery feels like a script that any sensible producer would have rejected for being too far-fetched, yet the gang delivered it with theatrical flair. Months of rehearsals, number plates swapped like stage props, and a multilingual performance to mislead investigators gave the crime an almost artistic absurdity. Their impersonation of central bank officials might have been comic relief had it not involved public money vanishing on cue. The swift recovery is reassuring, but unless security is strengthened, the audience may soon be treated to an unnecessary sequel.

K Chidanand Kumar, Bengaluru

Voice for victims

Apropos 'Bengaluru, a city of strays and too few shelters' (Nov 23), it is commendable that *DH* provided a voice to the victims of stray attacks, who are often children or daily-wage women workers. Animal lovers and pet parents are well-organised, but the same is not true for the victims.

Vikrant Ramachandra, Bengaluru

Lack of action

Apropos 'Bengaluru, a city of strays and too few shelters' (Nov 23), the stray dog issue has long been a serious concern. Although the Supreme Court has ordered measures to control the stray population, implementing these directives seems ineffective.

Sunita Munda, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

Rahul Gandhi is always right...

Shama Mohamed, Congress spokesperson

From a worldly point of view, there is no mistake so great as that of being always right.

Samuel Butler

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

Make America Jackson again

The 7th president of the US was a law unto himself and flouted all authority. Trump seems like an encore

R MARSHALL

Contrary to the public's perception of him, Donald Trump isn't all that unpredictable. His playbook was scripted a long time ago by none other than Andrew Jackson, the seventh president of the US, and the henchmen who inveigled to get him elected in 1828.

John Eaton's biography of Jackson, mostly a catalogue of evasions, half-truths and outright lies, was written for the sole purpose of promoting General Jackson's candidacy for president by focusing on his military campaigns. Jackson decimated the Muscogees, a native American tribe, during the Creek War of 1813-1814 and then went on to decisively defeat the British at the Battle of New Orleans in 1815. The natives were forced to surrender 21 million acres to white land speculators, which included Jackson. After Jackson was elected President in 1828, Congress passed the Indian Removal Act in 1830 with his support. More than 60,000 American Indians from at least 18 tribes were forced to move west of the Mississippi River, where they were allocated new lands in present-day Oklahoma, an arid region of the country. The United States east of the Mississippi and south of the Great Lakes was emptied of its American Indian population. Trump's (and Israel's) stated desire to empty out Gaza and turn it into an American Riviera of the Middle East echoes Jackson's vision for 19th-century America.

Here is a direct quote from Jackson. "What good man would prefer a country covered with forests and ranged by a few thousand savages to our extensive Republic, studded with cities, towns, and prosperous farms, embellished with all the improvements which art can devise or industry execute, occupied by more than 12,000,000 happy people, and filled with all the blessings of liberty, civilisation, and religion?"

Jackson was a law unto himself and flouted all authority, be it the constitution, Congress, the courts or his military superiors. He unilaterally waged war on Florida, then a Spanish territory, without congressional approval and annexed it on grounds of national security. Attempts to censure his behaviour proved futile. He exacted revenge on all who opposed him; throughout his career, he jailed legislators, judges, prosecutors and attorneys, and censored newspapers critical of him. He was compared to Caesar, a comparison not wholly unwarranted; his advisers planted stories in his favour in the newspapers to sway public opinion.

Trump's recent decision to change the name of the Department of Defence to the Department of War should be viewed as a tacit acknowledgement of how much Trump tries to mimic Jackson. In Jackson's time, there was no Department of Defence, only a Department of War. A portrait of Jackson occupies pride of place in Trump's Oval Office in the White House. Since Jackson's image appears on the $20 bill, Trump has been angling to have his face depicted on some form of US currency, be it paper bills or cryptocurrencies.

When a federal grand jury indicted Trump for conspiring to overturn the results of the November 2020 election, he moved to dismiss the indictment based on presidential immunity. The Supreme Court, stacked by his appointees, ruled in his favour. Given his vindictive nature, Trump has gone after those who sought to bring criminal and civil charges against him or the Trump Organisation.

Jackson did not have any qualms about owning slaves (he had between 95 and 150 slaves during his presidency) and mistreating them; he marked his human 'property' by cutting off their ears just as he had lopped off the noses of native Americans whom he had killed during the many wars started with them, both as a General and as President. By separating children from their parents during his ongoing war on illegal immigrants and sticking them in iron cages, or in what can only be described as reverse slave trading, grabbing migrants off the streets, shackling and deporting them to distant third countries, Trump has shown that he is no less cruel. With sympathetic senators and representatives of Congress beholden to him, he is currently engaged in a crusade to roll back the landmark civil rights and voting legislation enacted in the 1960s to correct past injustices against African-Americans.

Jackson speculated in real estate, usually on tribal land—land deemed of little value because it was inhabited by American Indians. He coerced the natives into leaving through 'negotiated' agreements, usually involving bogus peace treaties he had no intention of honouring, and profited immensely. Viewed in this light, Trump's ongoing tariff war with China, India, Canada, etc., is a textbook example of blackmail, one designed to extract maximum favourable concessions from the nations involved.

History does inform, but few read these days.

(The writer is a retired professor; he has written extensively and presented lectures on the societal and geo-political implications of technology)

Raising the Bar: The reforms India's new CJI must lead

C RAJ KUMAR

The appointment of Justice Surya Kant as the 53rd Chief Justice of India presents an opportunity to raise the quality of both the Bar and the Bench. Justice Surya Kant's extraordinary journey of four decades in law positions him well to address the challenges facing legal education and the legal profession and to help build better lawyers and judges for India.

The following five ideas could be pursued with the substantive involvement of the higher judiciary, led by the Chief Justice of India, in collaboration with the chairman and members of the Bar Council of India, which is the national regulatory body for legal education and the legal profession under the Advocates Act, 1961:

■ Democratising judicial clerkships to bring talent to India's district courts

Justice Surya Kant has an opportunity to promote transformative reforms with a view to democratising the judicial clerkships programme and expanding it to include district and subordinate courts across the country. The foundational vision for this reform rests on the fact that the district courts of India constitute 85% of India's total caseload. Yet, they remain largely outside the purview and aspirations of thousands of motivated law students. Implementing such a policy would enable young law students to understand and appreciate trial processes, evidence evaluation, case management, and day-to-day judicial reasoning at the district court level. Trial-level competencies can be built through judicial clerkships at district courts, where a large proportion of India's legal challenges, such as pendency, delays, improper investigation, absence of effective cross-examination, and other bottlenecks of the civil and criminal justice systems, are most visible.

■ NALSA should collaborate with law schools to develop a training ecosystem

The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) aims to provide free legal services to the weaker sections of society and to organise Lok Adalats for amicable settlement of disputes. The objective now should be to develop collaborative initiatives between legal aid clinics in law schools and NALSA.

This will help nurture a new generation of lawyers who are more committed to public interest lawyering. The collaboration will help focus on enhancing core litigation skills such as trial advocacy, evidence, cross-examination, writing and research capacities relating to drafting of pleadings and build intellectual capacity for statutory interpretation.

■ Augmenting skill-based training for trial advocacy and appellate practice

India has more than 1,700 law schools imparting legal education. However, the knowledge and skill acquired across these institutions remain diverse and far from uniform. A renewed focus on trial advocacy could lead to developing training modules on evidence, cross-examination, and case strategy. The judiciary could collaborate with the Bar Council of India and the State Bar Councils to launch national and state trial advocacy fellowships, which could be integrated into both legal education for law students and capacity building for practising lawyers. The Supreme Court and the High Courts could collaborate substantively with law schools to establish litigation labs. The Supreme Court Litigation Clinic at Harvard Law School is a good example of how collaboration between the higher judiciary and law schools can help build the next generation of lawyers.

■ Promoting access to justice and public service pathways

The future lawyer must be anchored in public service and not limited to corporate and commercial practice. Justice Surya Kant can lead the efforts to initiate a comprehensive National Public Defender Service, which could transform the access-to-justice landscape in India. A judicially supported pro bono framework could be developed in collaboration with the Bar Council of India. An equally important effort that needs to be undertaken is to encourage rural legal practice. If more than 70% of India's practising lawyers are concentrated in metros, we are creating rural justice deserts which will threaten the very foundations of the rule of law. Judicially encouraged legal practice fellowships for young lawyers to practise in district courts could narrow this gap.

■ Harnessing technology and preparing lawyers for an AI-driven legal future

The Indian judiciary is at the vanguard of changes that are leading the digital transformation of the justice delivery system – be it virtual hearings, AI-based transcription, AI-based due diligence mechanisms, or e-filing. India's e-courts project is among the world's largest such initiatives, covering over 21,000 courts. Under the leadership of the new Chief Justice, the judiciary can develop more lawyer-focused legal innovations in the field of legal tech.

The vision of preparing the future AI-driven legal system should consider establishing AI research labs within the Supreme Court and the High Courts to train judicial clerks and advocates. We need to have national certification courses, accredited training and capacity-building programmes on e-discovery, digital forensics, and even online dispute resolution mechanisms.

Building better lawyers and judges for India is indeed a national policy imperative. The new Chief Justice of India, Justice Surya Kant, is well poised to take this forward to the next level of legal system transformation, especially when a lot of groundwork has already been done over the last decade.

(The writer, a Rhodes Scholar, is the Founding Vice Chancellor of O P Jindal Global University)

A small corner of Belgium is recruiting ordinary citizens to help create policies. Participants say the process has renewed their faith in the government

JENNY GROSS

People meet to discuss regional policies in Eupen, capital of the German-speaking region of Ostbelgien in eastern Belgium. The experiment brings people from all walks of life together to discuss a local policy. NYT

Democracy is in trouble. This region is turning to its people

About two dozen people met in a white stone parliament building in eastern Belgium on a recent Saturday. They held a lively debate over the region's retirement policy and hashed out recommendations.

They were not elected officials, however, but ordinary citizens — a truck driver, a physical therapist, a laboratory assistant and others — taking part in an effort that might seem unusual in modern democracy: government more directly by the people.

In Ostbelgien, a German-speaking region of about 80,000 people, residents are chosen through a lottery each year to convene as a group to make recommendations to lawmakers on issues such as health, education and social services.

The project, known as the Ostbelgien Model, began six years ago as a way to increase trust in government. Those who started it say it now feels more urgent than ever.

Surveys indicate that dissatisfaction with democracy is increasing in wealthier nations, including the United States and much of Europe. Public dissatisfaction with democracy continues to outweigh satisfaction across 12 high-income countries that Pew Research Centre has surveyed consistently since 2017. Across that set of countries – Canada, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States –a median of 64% of adults say they are dissatisfied with the way their democracy is working, while a median of 35% are satisfied. This doesn't necessarily mean people are turning away from democratic values.

The research has shown that people around the globe think representative democracy is a good system of government. At the same time, many are frustrated with political elites or feel their views are not truly represented in government.

Democracy in polarised times can seem slow and even stagnant.

Far-right or populist parties have ridden voter disaffection to the top of opinion polls in France, Britain and Germany, and they are in power or in coalition governments in Hungary, Italy and Sweden.

Oliver Paasch, the minister-president of Ostbelgien, said that officials needed to find ways to address public frustration.

"If we want citizens to have more confidence in politicians, we, as politicians, have to give more confidence to the citizens," he said.

There are signs that the citizens' assemblies, *Bürgerversammlungen* in German, have had some impact.

One recommendation that has already been enacted is a ban on cellphones in middle schools and high schools. A citizens' assembly proposed a partial ban in 2022, and a subsequent group argued for a total ban, which went into effect in September.

Isabelle François, a teacher who was part of the 2022 assembly, said that she had long been distrustful of politicians and frustrated by government inefficiency. But after participating in the assembly, she said, she had a better understanding of the lawmaking process and why changes take so long. She also saw the importance of bringing people from all walks of life together to debate the best course of action.

"Everyone is living in his own world, and we have to see the other points of views to find a solution that suits everyone," said François, 29.

Her experience inspired her to run as a candidate in local elections last year. Though she lost, she said she might run again in the future.

About 1,500 letters are sent once a year to randomly selected residents in Ostbelgien. Of those who indicate interest, about 30 are chosen to join the citizens' assembly.

Starting in September, they meet on Saturdays for several hours over a period of two months, or longer if needed, and are assigned a topic. Each participant is paid a stipend of about 115 euros ($133) per day. They gather in the regional parliament building, which served as a military hospital during World War II, with a moderator employed by the government facilitating the discussions.

Though the assemblies' recommendations are not binding, lawmakers are required to consider them, and many have been adopted.

Among the changes they have spearheaded: easing eligibility requirements for low-income housing; including residents' family members on the boards of assisted-living facilities; and new funding to encourage young people to take up professions such as nursing, which is facing a shortage in the region.

The Belgian experiment recalls ancient Athenian democracy, in the 5th century BC, when groups of free men were chosen at random to serve as government officials each year. There wasn't much diversity in that citizenry, however, and these days, leaders in Eupen, the capital of Ostbelgien, acknowledge that what works in their small, relatively homogeneous region may not translate everywhere.

The assemblies' purview is also limited, naturally, to areas where the regional government has control, such as education and housing, rather than more divisive topics like the entry of immigrants which is overseen by the federal government in Brussels.

Thibault Simar, a participant in the current assembly, which is discussing retirement policy, said that when the question of government funding comes up, and talk turns to how immigration has put pressure on budgets, the moderator often cuts off discussion.

"My only fear is that this is a project for show," said Simar, 23, a customer adviser at an energy company. Still, he chose to get involved because, he said, "I want to see the ideas of our citizens come to life for the good of the German-speaking community and Belgium as a whole."

Similar initiatives have been tried in Seattle, Toronto, Madrid and other cities. Nearly a dozen countries, including Ireland, Britain, France and Montenegro, have used some form of citizens' assemblies at a national level, according to the Institute for Government, a British research group.

In Portugal, Lisbon's city government in 2008 started to bring in citizens to help determine budget allocation, an effort adopted at the national level from 2016. Both initiatives were halted as government priorities changed.

Graça Fonseca, a former Portuguese culture minister who pioneered the national and local initiatives, acknowledged that it can be difficult to measure the effectiveness of such programmes. But she said that participants found it meaningful.

"People want to be heard," Fonseca said. "Most of the causes of the not-so-progressive or right-wing movements growing is about people feeling that they were left behind and that politicians don't have a clue on what their life is."

Michaela Rothkrantz, a housekeeper in Ostbelgien, said she had barely followed regional politics before sitting on a citizens' assembly in 2022, when their topic was digital policy. After that, she said, she voted in local elections for the first time.

"My political life went from zero to 100," said Rothkrantz, 46. She had a glimpse of how elected officials work, and saw the government implement her assembly's suggestions on improving Internet access and online services for residents.

"That actually makes me really proud," she said.

The New York Times

Why the CD ratio needs a rethink

VASANT G HEGDE AND LALAN MISHRA

Banks, as financial intermediaries, accept deposits and lend money to MSMEs, corporates and households, keeping the wheels of the economy turning. Every rupee deposited in a bank should work for the economy—but are banks using these funds as efficiently as the numbers suggest?

The Reserve Bank of India has repeatedly flagged concerns about the high credit-deposit (CD) ratio and the widening gap between credit and deposit growth in the banking sector. These concerns are particularly acute for private sector banks, which are markedly aggressive in lending because shareholders favour banks with healthy bottom lines and higher net interest margins (NIM).

For starters, the credit-deposit ratio, also referred to as the loan-to-deposit ratio, is a fundamental financial metric that indicates the proportion of a bank's deposits deployed as loans and advances. Expressed as a percentage, it reflects a bank's liquidity position. So, if a bank has total deposits of Rs 100 crore and loans of Rs 70 crore, its CD ratio is 70%.

Under the fractional reserve system, banks must comply with the central bank's requirements and set aside 3.25% as the cash reserve ratio and 18% as the statutory liquidity ratio of their total deposits. Banks also maintain additional liquidity buffers for customer withdrawals and investments. Going by the textbook definition, the ideal CD ratio should lie between 70% and 75%. Anything less means a bank is not lending enough and is keeping the funds idle; a higher ratio indicates aggressive lending and heightened liquidity risks.

As of the end of August 2025, total deposits held by banks stood at Rs 237 lakh crore against total loans of Rs 186 lakh crore. The CD ratio for the banking sector is thus around 79%, driven largely by healthy retail credit demand and increased lending to businesses and MSMEs, coupled with relatively slower deposit growth.

Based on figures from select balance sheets, top private sector banks such as HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank and Axis Bank recorded CD ratios of 99%, 87% and 92%, respectively. In comparison, the public sector banks, such as State Bank of India, Canara Bank and Punjab National Bank, reported CD ratios of 78%, 72% and 69%. Loans are the primary source of interest income for banks. A higher CD ratio for private sector banks results in higher interest income, boosting NIMs and overall profitability. Private banks also earn significant fee-based income by distributing mutual fund units and insurance products and offering demat services. These numbers, however, depend on the data published on bank websites. What explains these variations? How can a bank lend more than the ideal ratio of 75%?

The answer lies in differing interpretations of the ratio. Many banks borrow funds from the RBI and use them for lending. Many others borrow by issuing certificates of deposit (CDs), which are short-term money market instruments. The amount raised through this route is insignificant and may not impact the CD ratio much. A few others, who have sufficient shareholder funds, use their capital to supplement deposits to lend. This ambiguity points directly to a lack of clear and uniform reporting standards by banks. This inconsistency in reporting may mislead policymakers, depositors, shareholders and employees. For the sake of clarity, banks should declare clearly -- either in their annual reports or in investor presentations -- the loans given through deposits, loans given through borrowed funds and loans given out of shareholder funds.

What is the solution to a high CD ratio? Banks must either reduce lending (the numerator) or increase deposits (the denominator). But deposit mobilisation is increasingly difficult due to competition from riskier assets such as equity shares, mutual funds or bitcoins. In response to the RBI's concerns about high CD ratios and the resultant liquidity risks, many private sector banks have slowed down their lending. A few others have been selling their loans to asset reconstruction companies. Some have explored alternative funding avenues such as infrastructure bonds, which are exempt from certain reserve requirements.

If banks are using funds other than deposits for lending, then calling the metric the CD ratio is a misnomer. It should be more accurately termed as credit-to-funds ratio (CF ratio)—with funds comprising deposits, borrowings and capital. It is high time the RBI addressed this ambiguity for the benefit of all stakeholders.

(The writers are ex-bankers and currently train bankers at Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Bengaluru)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: NOVEMBER 1975

Vijay crushes Orantes in two sets

Calcutta, November 23
India's Vijay Amritraj lived up to his reputation of being a giant-killer. In the men's singles final this afternoon, the Indian ace made short work of top-seeded Manuel Orantes of Spain in straight sets at 7-5, 6-3 and pocketed the winner's cash prize of 10,000 U.S. dollars in the third Grand Prix Tennis Championships of India here. Vijay, who played devastating tennis, had sweet revenge on the Spaniard who in their first meeting in the Swiss Open last year, got the better of him in three straight sets.

25 YEARS AGO: NOVEMBER 2000

Rural quota bill passed

Bangalore, Nov 23
The Legislative Assembly today passed the Karnataka Reservation of Appointments to Posts (In the Civil Services of the state) for Rural Candidates Bill, 2000, with an amendment increasing the proposed horizontal reservation from 10 to 25 per cent for rural candidates amidst a walkout by the JD (U) members, who stated that the Bill was defective. The Bill seeks to provide 25 per cent horizontal reservation in direct recruitment for government jobs in each of the categories of general merit, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and in each of the categories of Other Backward Classes.

OASIS | ROHINI S MURTHY

The weight of 'what ifs'

Death is nothing else but going home to God; the bond of love will be unbroken for all eternity.
--Mother Teresa

It was just over a fortnight when my sister called quite early in the morning to convey the news of my maternal uncle's death. With tears welling up in my eyes, I was unable to control my grief, though my mind kept telling me that the netherworld is a much better place for him. My uncle Ravi Kumar, a lifelong bachelor and a voracious reader, played a pivotal role during my childhood and teenage years. He impressed me with his knowledge of the English language and his uncanny ability to recollect plots of best-selling novels.

Being a heart patient, the last few weeks of his life were quite tough. Though I often reached out to him through WhatsApp messages, I postponed talking to him, presuming that death is a reality that can strike only in the distant future. Hence, the news of his passing away was nothing less than a bolt from the blue, a wake-up call to act wisely and empathetically when someone is in pain.

The regret of not speaking to him enveloped me with full force. The anguish and dejection made me shed copious tears. Though my husband constantly comforted me by saying, "Stop imagining an alternative or a more desirable outcome; instead, be grateful for the fact that you and your cousins were able to support him whenever the need arose." His rationale, however, failed to soothe me.

Regret, according to me, is the most painful emotion that steadily robs your positive train of thoughts. It is like a leech that sucks away your power to think logically and act rationally. There were a number of 'what ifs' that came to my mind when I heard about my uncle's demise. 'If I had spoken to him the previous day, would he have died peacefully, or maybe I could have helped him reach a hospital and alleviate his suffering?'. Though I urged myself to walk on the nostalgic lane, reflecting on happy memories, my remorse-ridden mind refused to let go of the probabilities.

It is rather ironic that after a loved one passes away, we start making a mental wish list of all the things we could have done if the person were alive. Nevertheless, I realised that moving through regret can teach us a lesson or two about making better future choices. In my case, I am extremely grateful for the gentle admonition from friends and family members. They made me understand that grieving and healing will take some time and one should avoid harsh self-criticism of past events. Instead, if we reflect on our feelings and comprehend what it's teaching us, we can balance remembrance and learn to live meaningfully.

Kushwaha's 'poison' gamble in Bihar and India's dynastic diaries

Dynasties have politically entrenched themselves across parties and generations

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Upendra Kushwaha chose his unelected son Deepak Prakash as the Rashtriya Lok Morcha (RLM) nominee for Nitish Kumar's Cabinet on November 20, drawing criticism for overlooking the four elected winners from his party, including his wife Snehalata.

A day later, he took to X to defend his decision, admitting he was aware it would be called dynastic politics but insisting his hands were tied. He said his choice came from a desire not to repeat "past mistakes" and to "save and sustain" the party he founded after parting with Nitish.

He said he prioritised his determination to keep his party "alive and intact" — a move he likened to drinking poison. Without offering details, he recalled how his supporters once won and then walked away.

"The bag remained empty. We came down to zero. It was important to reflect and act to prevent such a situation from recurring," he reasoned.

Upendra Kushwaha's son Deepak Prakash took charge as Panchayati Raj Department Minister in Patna on November 22. PTI

FAMILY FIRST

- Kushwaha picks unelected son Deepak Prakash for Nitish Cabinet, bypassing four party winners
- Akhilesh rebelled against father Mulayam, reconciled to sideline uncle Shivpal
- Stalin grooms son Udhayanidhi; Chandrababu Naidu entrenches son Nara Lokesh
- Sharad Pawar's daughter Supriya Sule leads NCP(SP) after Ajit Pawar split
- KCR backs son KT Rama Rao in BRS; Jagan Mohan Reddy holds YSR Congress
- Lalu Prasad prefers son Tejashwi, ignoring daughters

Kushwaha's predicament is nothing new in Indian politics. Many parties that began with noble ideals are now firmly entrenched in dynastic politics — from the RJD and Samajwadi Party to the DMK, Shiv Sena, NCP, TDP, BRS, YSR Congress, National Conference, PDP, and the Congress.

A senior Jharkhand Congress leader told *DH*, "One may criticise dynastic politics, but people love political dynasties. That is why so many are successful. The Congress denied seats to some dynastic candidates in Bihar and saw the result. We can keep debating it, but that is the reality."

Another leader pointed to JD(U)'s Nitish Kumar and JMM's Hemant Soren, who appointed outsiders to occupy their chairs in their absence. Both Jitan Ram Manjhi and Champai Soren created trouble when their leaders wanted the chairs back.

The AAP's Arvind Kejriwal appeared to learn from their experience. When jailed, he refused to vacate the chair, instead making his wife his political voice. Only after his release did he appoint Atishi as his replacement.

In the SP, Akhilesh Yadav rebelled against his father Mulayam and uncle Shivpal, but the father-son duo eventually reconciled to sideline Shivpal.

Beyond the Gandhis in the Congress, the DMK saw M Karunanidhi anoint his son M K Stalin, who now wants to pass the baton to his son Udhayanidhi. In the TDP, N Chandrababu Naidu has ensured that his son Nara Lokesh is firmly entrenched in the party apparatus. Meanwhile, in the NCP (SP), Sharad Pawar's daughter Supriya Sule has taken charge after his nephew Ajit Pawar broke away.

But that was not the case for K Kavitha in the BRS, where K Chandrashekar Rao has shown a preference for his son K T Rama Rao.

In the YSR Congress, Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy retains full control, while his sister Sharmila has returned to the Congress. In the RJD, Lalu Prasad chose younger son Tejashwi as his heir, ignoring his daughters.

Bangladesh sends extradition request to India for Sheikh Hasina

DHAKA, PTI: Bangladesh's interim government has sent an "official letter" to India seeking the extradition of deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina after a special tribunal sentenced her to death, a senior adviser said on Sunday.

Sheikh Hasina

"The letter was sent the day before yesterday," Foreign Affairs Adviser Md Touhid Hossain was quoted as saying by the state-run BSS news agency. He, however, did not provide further details.

Citing an official source at the foreign ministry, the agency said that the note verbal (official diplomatic letter) was sent through the Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi.

On Nov 17, the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT-BD) sentenced 78-year-old Hasina to death along with then home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal on charges of committing "crimes against humanity" after their trial in absentia. Hasina is currently in India, while Kamal is also believed to be hiding in India.

First announce, second think: Cong flays Centre over C'garh bill

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Congress on Sunday described the Ministry of Home Affairs' (MHA) announcement that it has no intention to change Chandigarh's administrative structure as yet another example of the Modi government's "first announce, second think" approach to governance.

The MHA announcement came after pushback from the Punjab leaders, who believed that the move would dilute the state's claim over Chandigarh, which is currently its capital as well as that of Haryana.

Congress General Secretary (Communications) Jairam Ramesh said the Parliament Bulletin for the forthcoming Winter Session had listed for introduction a Constitution Amendment Bill to enable the appointment of a full-time L-G for Chandigarh.

"This was immediately and aggressively opposed by the Congress and other parties in Punjab whose Governor is also the Administrator of Chandigarh. The Union Home Ministry now says that it has no intention to introduce the Bill in the Winter Session. Yet another example of the Modi Govt's FAST approach to governance - First Announce, Second Think (sic)," he said.

Final salute for IAF pilot Syal

SHIMLA, PTI: Sobbing inconsolably, the IAF officer wife of Wing Commander Namansh Syal, killed in the Tejas crash at the Dubai Air show, managed a farewell salute with their six-year-old daughter clinging to her as his mortal remains were consigned to flames in Himachal Pradesh's Kangra district on Sunday. The wing commander's cousin lit the pyre. Indian Air Force, politicians, and locals paid their final respects to their dear 'Nammu'.

Cong blames 'hasty' SIR for 16 BLO deaths

A calculated ploy harassing voters & officials alike: Rahul

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Rising incidents of Booth Level Officers (BLOs) engaged in the SIR of electoral rolls dying by suicide or due to other issues in the past three weeks have triggered a controversy, with top Congress leaders Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi on Sunday objecting to lives being lost to the "hasty" and "forced" implementation of the exercise.

"The EC (Election Commission) has created such a system where citizens have to flip through thousands of scanned pages of a 22-year-old voter list just to find themselves. The intent is clear -- the right voters get exhausted and give up, and vote theft continues unabated (sic)," said Rahul, asking why the poll body was still stuck on "erecting a jungle of paper" when India builds cutting-edge software for the world.

"If the intent were pure, the list would be digital, searchable, and machine-readable - and the ECI would take adequate time to focus on transparency and accountability, instead of blindly pushing work in a 30-day frenzy," he said.

He claimed the SIR was a "calculated ploy" where citizens were being harassed, and the deaths of BLOs from "unnecessary pressure" were "dismissed as collateral damage".

RAHUL GANDHI
Congress leader

"The EC has created such a system where citizens have to flip through thousands of scanned pages of a 22-year-old voter list just to find themselves. The intent is clear – the right voters get exhausted and give up, and vote theft continues unabated.

He alleged that this was not a failure but a conspiracy — "a sacrifice of democracy to protect those in power".

Asking who would deliver justice to the deceased BLOs' families, Kharge posted on X that the BJP was "busy lapping up the cream of power through theft, while the Election Commission stands as a mute spectator watching the spectacle". He said the hasty, forced implementation of the SIR, without any planning, brought back memories of demonetisation and the Covid-19 lockdown.

News reports indicate that since November 4, when house-to-house enumeration began, 16 BLOs or assistant BLOs have died by suicide or from health complications, while several others remain hospitalised, citing heavy workloads and mounting stress from tight deadlines.

As SIR gains momentum, booth agents of Dravidian majors work tirelessly

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Sixty-five-year-old M P Natarajan, a booth-level agent (BLA), was meticulously jotting down every detail, name of the voter, EPIC number, booth number, and even party affiliation, in a yellow-coloured notebook prominently displaying Chief Minister M K Stalin's image.

Natarajan, a BLA-2 of the DMK in Velachery assembly constituency, was assisting voters in filling out their enumeration forms (EF) for Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls at a help desk.

While explaining his job, Natarajan kept pausing the conversation to take calls from his senior functionaries to update them about the number of EFs submitted since morning.

"Not just me, all 69,000 BLAs of our party have to pen down every detail. We were trained to handle the exercise," Natarajan told *DH*.

Six km away, in Teynampet, AIADMK BLA-2 Harikrishnan filled out about a dozen EFs in about 30 minutes and handed them over to the BLO. He does not keep a notebook like his DMK counterpart, but the AIADMK cadre is also mandated to give an update to his district unit by the end of the day.

Booth agents have to give an update to the party every day. DH PHOTO

Natarajan and Harikrishnan are just two of the thousands of BLAs from the Dravidian majors who are working tirelessly on the ground to monitor SIR and ensure that people do not get disenfranchised.

DH's field visit to about a dozen election help desks in Chennai showed that the DMK appears well-prepared with its trained booth agents and ground-level campaign; the AIADMK, though active on the ground, does not seem as ready for the SIR. DMK BLAs were present in every booth, but that was not the case with their AIADMK counterparts.

"My leader (MK Stalin) foresaw the conduct of SIR in June, when it was announced in Bihar. He then directed me to prepare our BLAs for it. I travelled to all 72 party districts and gave a presentation on the process. We educated all the BLAs through our IT and legal wings," N R Elango, Rajya Sabha MP and secretary of the DMK legal wing, told *DH*.

The party involves about 4,500 advocates from its legal wing to handle complaints during SIR on the ground and redress them.

Besides, the DMK runs a helpline at its headquarters exclusively to help people fill the forms and get their doubts cleared, receiving about 150 visitors in person and between 500-600 calls every day.

On the AIADMK side, its legal wing secretary, I S Inbadurai, a Rajya Sabha MP, said they have issued instructions to their BLAs through district secretaries to closely monitor the exercise and report any discrepancies. However, no special training has been provided.

"The DMK is aggressive on the ground because they fear SIR. We are active on the ground without any aggression. This may look like we are not present on the ground, but we are," he added.

SIR a tool to cut electors, warns Yogendra Yadav

KOLKATA, PTI: Eminent psephologist Yogendra Yadav on Sunday reiterated that the SIR of electoral rolls in Bihar and West Bengal was just a test before a larger rollout.

Addressing a meeting here, Yadav claimed that the BJP would leave no stone unturned to win the 2026 Bengal polls and was using the SIR process as a tool to reduce the number of electors.

Yadav alleged that after failing to make a dent in opposition-ruled states like WB in the past, the BJP was now hell-bent on using SIR as a last resort to reduce the electorate in such states. He described the SIR exercise in Bengal as "the highest disenfranchisement ever" undertaken in the country.

TVK chief Vijay resumes poll campaign, targets ruling DMK

CHENNAI, PTI: Tamilaga Vettri Kazhgam chief Vijay on Sunday resumed his campaign for the 2026 Assembly election after a break of nearly 2 months and, without directly naming the ruling DMK, accused it of a 'loot' of Rs 4,730 crore via illegal sand mining.

TVK leader Vijay

He also indirectly levelled the allegation of dynasty politics against it and claimed that the ruling party had forgotten its founder CN Annadurai's diktat of 'go to the people.'

Addressing a public meeting in Kanchipuram district, Vijay, avoiding a direct reference, alleged that DMK's ideology was only to loot.

"They just talk about ideology, mortgaging all their principles, acting as if they alone have leased all principles. Isn't their ideology just to loot? Do you think people don't know all this?

Asserting that the Palar River is the lifeline of the Kancheepuram region, he said such a life-giving river has been degraded and ruined by those merely using the names of social reformers, "Periyar" EV Ramasamy and Anna.

He said these were not casual remarks and alleged a loot of a "small amount of Rs 4,730 crore" by way of illegal sand mining, as about 22.70 lakh units of sand were mined by exceeding the permitted level.

Dynasty politics

The TVK's chief indirectly levelled the allegation of dynasty politics against the DMK by recalling late party patriarch M Karunanidhi's assertion—made in the distant past—that his party was not Kancheepuram "Sankara Math".

The late DMK patriarch had made that remark, in a particular context, to reiterate that the party decided its chief and someone was not appointed to the top post just like that, as it happened in a monastery.

He reiterated that the contest is going to be between the DMK and his party and said that as soon as permission is granted to conduct rallies, it would be done.

Following the September 27 stampede at Karur, this is the first time Vijay addressed his party workers, fans and the people as well, marking the resumption of his campaign ahead of the state election next year.

Borders can change, Sindh may return to India: Rajnath

NEW DELHI, PTI: Recalling BJP patriarch L K Advani's words on Sindh's civilisational connect with India despite the Partition, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday said "borders can change" and "tomorrow Sindh may return to India".

Rajnath Singh

In his address at an event hosted by the Sindhi community here, he said that "Advani ji wrote in one of his books that Sindhi Hindus, especially those of his generation, still haven't accepted the matter of separation of Sindh from India".

"Not just in Sindh, but throughout India, Hindus considered the Indus River (Sindhu in Hindi) sacred. Many Muslims in Sindh also believed that the water of the Indus was no less sacred than the Aab-e-Zamzam (holiest of the waters) of Mecca."

"This is Advani ji's quote. Today, the land of Sindh may not be a part of India, but civilisationally, Sindh will always be a part of India. And as far as land is concerned, borders can change. Who knows, tomorrow Sindh may return to India. Our people of Sindh, who hold the Indus River sacred, will always be our own," he said.

Jamiat chief Madani's Al-Falah remarks trigger political row

NEW DELHI, PTI: Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind chief Maulana Arshad Madani's remarks alleging discrimination against Muslims while citing the example of the Al-Falah University, which is under scanner in the Delhi blast probe, triggered a row with the BJP on Sunday, saying the "save terrorist jamaat" has become active.

Arshad Madani

Madani claimed that while Zohran Mamdani had been elected the mayor of New York and a Khan could become the mayor of London, Muslims in India cannot even become vice chancellors in universities.

"The world thinks that Muslims have been crippled and finished. I don't believe so. Today, a Muslim, Mamdani, can become the mayor of New York, a Khan can become mayor of London; whereas in India, no one can even become a university vice-chancellor," he said at a session at the Jamiat headquarters here on Saturday.

"And even if someone does, they will be sent to jail, like (Samajwadi Party leader) Azam Khan. Look at what is happening today with Al-Falah. He (the founder) is in jail, and no one knows how many years he will be in jail," Madani said.

The government is working relentlessly to ensure that Muslims never raise their heads, the chief of one of the two factions of Jamiat alleged.

BJP leaders slammed Madani for the remarks and accused him of giving a communal colour to the Delhi blast probe. The party's spokesperson, Shehzad Poonawalla, said, "In the name of vote bank, the 'bhaijann of appeasement' and the 'aatanki bachao jamaat (save terrorists group)' has become active."

"Arshad Madani ji, leave aside this talk of mayor; this country has seen Muslims becoming President, vice president, chief justice, home minister."

Faridabad arms haul triggers fertiliser audit in J&K

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

LOOPHOLES

- Accused confess to sourcing NPK fertiliser, ammonium nitrate and urea from Gurugram, Nuh markets
- Chemicals, wires, timers procured under guise of 'academic projects'
- Seizure exposes blind spots in trade – no IDs checked, no records maintained

The massive recovery of explosive precursor materials from Faridabad — sourced quietly by members of the busted white-collar terror module — has prompted the Jammu & Kashmir Police to launch a Valley-wide audit of fertiliser, chemical and hardware inventories to plug supply gaps that militants may exploit.

Officials said the Union Territory-wide crackdown began after key accused Dr Muzammil Shakeel confessed to purchasing large quantities of NPK fertiliser, a source of ammonium nitrate and urea, from markets in Gurugram and Nuh over two years.

The investigations led police to 3,000 kg of the material stored in rented accommodations in Faridabad, one of the biggest seizures of explosive precursors linked to a terror plot in recent years.

The procurement trail showed that the module sourced other chemicals, wires, remotes, timers and electronic components from general trade shops in Nuh and Faridabad. By buying items in small quantities or pretending they were for "academic projects", the accused evaded scrutiny. "They exploited the blind spots in everyday commercial trade. No one asked for IDs, no one maintained records," a senior officer said.

According to investigators, the fertilisers and chemicals were later processed and mixed inside a rented room at Al-Falah University, where several of the accused doctors worked.

The Faridabad seizure and procurement patterns exposed serious gaps in the monitoring of ammonium nitrate, urea-based fertilisers and industrial chemicals—widely available items that become highly sensitive when stockpiled. This prompted the J&K Police to mirror the investigative trail locally and clamp down on potential supply chains inside Kashmir.

Police teams are now conducting physical verification of industrial stocks, cross-checking inventories with purchase and sales records, and examining whether any unit holds unaccounted quantities of chemicals that could be diverted for unlawful activities.

"The module managed to procure thousands of kilograms of material without triggering a single alert," a senior officer said. "We cannot allow that loophole to exist in Kashmir. From now on, every kilogram must have a paper trail."

KIN CONTEST

Kerala local body polls see brotherly face-offs

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

The local body elections in Kerala have put some families in a tricky spot, with siblings contesting against each other in a couple of wards.

At Kizhakkoth panchayat in Koduvally, Kozhikode district, Ishaq Pookottil and his brother Ayub Pookottil are pitted against each other as candidates of the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) and the CPM-led Left Democratic Front (LDF), respectively. In Kollam district's Pathanapuram panchayat, Denny Varghese and Denson Varghese face off at Kallumkadavu as UDF and LDF candidates.

Denny Varghese

Denson Varghese

Imbichi Ayisha, mother of the Pookottil brothers, provided money for both her sons to pay the deposit while filing nominations. "I wish both of them success. I have not yet decided whom to vote for. I will do what I feel when I reach the polling booth," she told those curious about her stand in the election.

Ishaq, who is contesting against his younger brother, told *DH* that the two were using the situation as an opportunity to show that politics would not affect their personal lives.

"Both of us are in the electoral fray as per the decision of our respective parties. We see this as a chance to prove that politics will not interfere with personal relations. We still meet almost daily and discuss personal matters," said Ishaq, a retired schoolteacher. His brother Ayub is a retired engineer from the state government service.

Denson, who is contesting against his elder brother Denny, echoed a similar sentiment. "Both of us respect our political positions. It doesn't come in the way of our personal relationship. Our family members also have no issues with us contesting against each other," he said.

Denson works at a cooperative bank, while Denny is an advocate.

Only relaxed timeline, but guvs can't hold a bill indefinitely: Gavai

Outgoing CJI says judicial review is available in extreme delays

NEW DELHI, PTI

Outgoing Chief Justice of India BR Gavai on Sunday said that the apex court gave a balanced verdict by doing away with the timelines for governors and the President on bills, as the Constitution does not permit it, and at the same time holding that governors cannot sit over the bills indefinitely.

In a candid conversation with media persons at his official residence, Justice Gavai said that the Constitution rests on the principle of separation of powers and does not permit the court to read timelines where none exist.

He is leaving office on Sunday. Friday was his last working day in the Supreme Court.

"We have not only relaxed the timeline, but we also balanced it by saying that the governor cannot sit over the bill for an endless time," the outgoing CJI said.

Outgoing Chief Justice of India B R Gavai during an interaction with journalists at his official residence on his last day in office. PTI

Responding to criticism that he diluted timelines for governors' decisions on bills, he said, "The Constitution does not permit the court to read timelines where none exist. But we have said the governor cannot sit indefinitely. Judicial review is available in extreme delays."

On November 20, the apex court refused to accept the preliminary objections raised by opposition-ruled states like Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Kerala to the maintainability of Presidential Reference, saying the issues raised pertain to the very core and foundational modalities of the constitutional machinery.

Judge Verma row

He, however, refused to comment on the Judge Yashwant Verma matter, saying that the issue is currently before the Parliamentary Committee.

Justice Verma landed in controversy after a fire incident at his residence in the national capital in March, when he was a judge at the Delhi High Court, led to the discovery of several burnt sacks of cash at the outhouse.

CJI Gavai bats for Collegium, calls for SC creamy layer exclusion

Outgoing Chief Justice of India B R Gavai on Sunday strongly defended the collegium system for appointing judges, made a strong case for the exclusion of affluent people from the Scheduled Caste quota, and regretted not appointing any women judges during his tenure in the top court, reports PTI.

He said he was leaving the institution "with a full sense of satisfaction and contentment" and reiterated his resolve not to accept any post-retirement assignments.

Strongly defending his views on the introduction of a creamy layer concept to exclude affluent people amongst the SCs from quota benefits, he said, "If benefits go repeatedly to the same families, a class within a class emerges. Reservation must reach those who truly need it."

He, however, clarified that the final call on this issue "has to be taken by the executive and the Parliament".

Strongly defending the collegium system, he said it helps in "maintaining independence of judiciary".

ULFA(I) militant to remain in Assam custody

TEZPUR (ASSAM), PTI: Top ULFA(I) insurgent Arunodoi Asom, who surrendered before security forces, will be kept in Assam, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Sunday.

He said the militant will be kept in custody in Tinsukia in Upper Assam.

The circumstances and other details of the surrender of Arunodoi Asom, also known as Arunodoi Dohotia, and his bodyguard have not yet been shared by officials.

Asked about Dohotia's surrender, Sarma said, "As far as I know, they won't be taken to Delhi. They will remain in Tinsukia. At the most, they will be taken to Guwahati to meet the DGP."

A market of pride & possibility

ARKADEV GHOSHAL
KOLKATA, DHNS

The challenges have been steep for Ari Roy Chowdhury: This transgender individual from West Bengal's Nadia district wore a serious expression while explaining how they have to look for alternate ways of earning money to look after their elderly parents and members of the family, besides members of the community.

That's when a youngster walked up to Ari's stall at the first edition of the Rongdhonu Mela — an LGBTQ-centred popup flea market in Kolata — and proudly introduced their mother. Warm smiles and happy banter broke out, and that appeared to be the leitmotif of this two-day event — organised by Sappho for Equality — that concluded on Sunday.

Animita crochets while showcasing her products at Rongdhonu Mela in Kolkata.

Sappho member Sreoshi informed *DH* that besides the musical acts, the fair had 42 stalls with participants from not just Bengal but even from Bengaluru. The aim was to give people of the queer community a platform to sell their products, including those catering to specific groups and people.

Nishita, a seller from Bengaluru, noted that queers already face stigma, and selling undergarments for the community only adds to it. That's why events like Rongdhonu Mela matter — they give queer people access to products made for them.

It wasn't all about pride products. Animita from Hooghly's Chandannagar sold crocheted items — keychains, baubles, coasters, placemats — drawing customers across gender and orientation. She told *DH* that while her creations weren't pride-focused, straight-crowd events often drew comments like "boys won't like this colour".

The fair also supported women. Tea-garden workers from Darjeeling, like widowed Sabita Chhetri raising two children, sold pickles and momo.

328 kg meth haul: NCB, Delhi Police bust transnational cartel

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) and Delhi Police's Special Cell have busted a transnational methamphetamine cartel with the recovery of 328 kg of the contraband, worth around Rs 262 crore, from a house in Delhi's Chhatarpur, a government statement on Sunday said.

The crackdown, named "Operation Crystal Fortress" -- a coordinated intelligence-based operation targeting high-volume synthetic drug networks -- resulted in the arrest of two individuals, including a woman from Nagaland, on November 20, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) statement said.

Stated to be one of the biggest recoveries of the illicit substance in the national capital, the massive cache of high-quality methamphetamine was unearthed at the residence of the Nagaland-native woman in Chhatarpur, the ministry said.

The MHA in a statement said other operatives have also been identified, including the kingpin operating from abroad, who is also wanted in a case related to the recovery of 82.5 kg of high-grade cocaine by the NCB last year, in Delhi.

"Efforts are underway, in coordination with international enforcement partners, to secure his deportation to India to face legal proceedings," the MHA said.

MISCELLANY

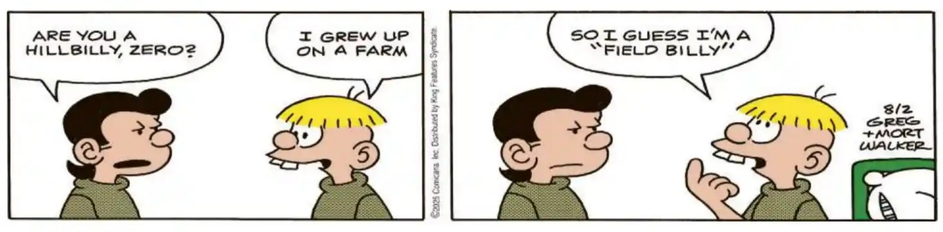
◆COMICS◆

Blondie

TOOTSIE AND I ARE GOING SHOPPING...IS THERE ANYTHING YOU BOYS WANT WHILE WE'RE OUT?
NAH, WE'RE FINE
OK, SUIT YOURSELF!
SHOOT...I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW I WANTED A CHEESEBURGER UNTIL THEY LEFT
YOU'D BETTER TEXT THEM... SUDDENLY I'M STARVING!

Hagar The Horrible

Beetle Bailey

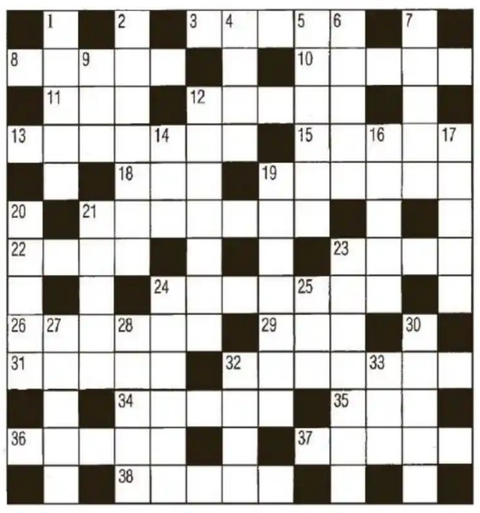


Peanuts

HEY, STUPID!
I BROUGHT YOU A SOUVENIR FROM CAMP
I DOUBT IF IT'S ANYTHING YOU CAN USE, BUT WHO CARES? IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, THROW IT AWAY!
HOW COULD I PART WITH A GIFT SO TOUCHING?

Marvin

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12294



CRYPTIC

ACROSS

3 For a one-off purpose, flavour pronouncedly with wine (2,3)
8 He has his own way of working in crime (5)
10 Answer properly redirected at last (5)
11 Vehicle assembled from chariot parts (3)
12 Sea pink (5)
13 Where Londoners nibble at meat? (7)
15 In the end, many fail (5)
18 It's in the field of mineral resources (3)
19 Very slack, but clever about work, on the quiet (6)
21 A rough idea of the direction of exit? (7)
22 See art as a vehicle (4)
23 Worker having a great time at the piano (4)
24 Ruled out, a politician is disturbed (7)
26 To the school head, these are learned writings (6)
29 To get the notes right, you need one for music (3)
31 Runs a retail business in Russell Square (5)
32 Deeply, darkly puzzling? Not if I can help it! (7)
34 Rouse to make money (5)
35 Plenty of warm clothes (3)
36 It may carry a lot of symbolic meaning (5)
37 It can make them drunk at Ponders End (5)
38 Benefits said to be short (5)

DOWN

1 Sweeter maybe, but cold hearted? (5)
2 Exercise your right to keep fit (4,3)
4 Catastrophic cause of a bad mood (4)
5 Is consulted but may make nothing clear! (6)
6 Instrument forming part of a collection (5)
7 Take hold of many a snake (5)
9 Beth's garment, in play? (3)
12 Thick-skinned and unfeeling (7)
14 A Whitehall success? (3)
16 Chosen as a noted new poet? (5)
17 E.g., looking around one in Scotland (5)
19 They shoot some distance away (7)
20 They adjust costs nationally (5)
21 Window offering a view of the Loire? (5)
23 Can its outward resemblance to Perspex puzzle you? (7)
24 Carry on with the summary (6)
25 Put those eggs down! (3)
27 A flier gets ahead with her (5)
28 It puts you out, naturally (5)
30 Able to make a quick exit from Clitheroe (5)
32 Treat books badly (4)
33 Drink, little one (3)

ACROSS

3 Blossom (5)
8 Prophets (5)
10 Card game (5)
11 In favour of (3)
12 Military trainee (5)
13 Part of a whole (7)
15 Restore to zero (5)
18 Shade of brown (3)
19 Waver (6)
21 Drawing implements (7)
22 Head covering (4)
23 Become a member (4)
24 Rear (5,2)
26 Pressed (6)
29 Pinch (3)
31 Evaluates (5)
32 Inhabitant (7)
34 All-night watch (5)
35 Drawn match (3)
36 Any two-footed animal (5)
37 Response (5)
38 Spools (5)

DOWN

1 Warehouse (5)
2 Pig's foot (7)
4 Lacking fat (4)
5 Musical dramas (6)
6 Hotel for motorists (5)
7 Native American tent (5)
9 Make mistakes (3)
12 Agreement, harmony (7)
14 Boy's name (3)
16 Bend forwards (5)
17 Fashion (5)
19 Face cloth (7)
20 Seat (5)
21 Fulcrum (5)
23 Planet (7)
24 Next to (6)
25 Spirit (3)
27 Quick (5)
28 At no time (5)
30 Touches (5)
32 Watch part (4)
33 Fastening device (3)

SOLUTIONS TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD 2655

CRYPTIC

ACROSS: 1 Tiptop, 4 Thailand, 9 Parley, 10 Cut above, 12 Commonly, 13 At hand, 15 Lane, 16 Gravy train, 19 Stagecoach, 20 Mail, 23 Absurd, 25 Adherent, 27 Pooh-pooh, 28 Ritual, 29 Likeness, 30 Pent-up.

DOWN: 1 Typical, 2 Pyromania, 3 Ocelot, 5 Haul, 6 In a state, 7 Aroma, 8 Dresden, 11 Bleriot, 14 Avocado, 17 As a result, 18 Terrapin, 19 Scalpel, 21 Let slip, 22 Venice, 24 Spook, 26 Nous.

◆SU-DO-KU-6759◆

2	8		9					
			4					
	9			3	1			5
		5			4	2	8	
3								1
	7	9	2			6		
5			1	2			7	
					3			
					8		4	3

very hard

SOLUTION TO 6758

2	9	7	5	3	6	8	4	1
1	5	4	7	9	8	6	2	3
6	3	8	2	1	4	5	7	9
9	4	5	8	6	7	1	3	2
7	1	6	4	2	3	9	5	8
3	8	2	9	5	1	4	6	7
5	2	1	6	7	9	3	8	4
8	7	9	3	4	5	2	1	6
4	6	3	1	8	2	7	9	5

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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N1	O1	Y4	K5	T1	T1	T1	1st Letter Double	RACK 1
I1	F4	A1	I1	F4	N1	E1	Triple Word Score	RACK 2
A1	I1	E1	R1	M3	L1	S1		RACK 3
Y4	R1	P3	T1	A1	L1	A1	Triple Word Score	RACK 4

PAR SCORE 130-140
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

M3	U1	F4	F4	I1	N1	S1	RACK 1	= 95
R1	E1	V4	A1	L1	U1	E1	RACK 2	= 60
E1	X8	P3	I1	R1	E1	D2	RACK 3	= 83
S1	K5	E1	W4	E1	D2		RACK 4	= 28
							JUDD'S TOTAL	266

PAR SCORE 170-180

HITORI-3213

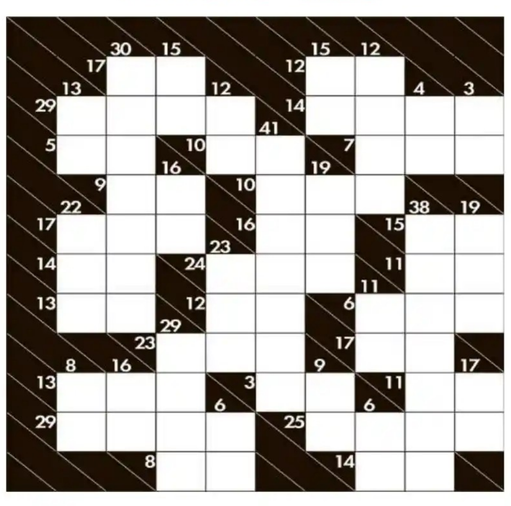
3	3	1	6	2	3	8	7
3	3	7	3	6	8	5	3
1	5	2	3	8	3	6	2
3	8	6	3	5	2	2	3
2	7	4	8	2	5	1	3
3	2	8	5	1	6	6	5
8	4	5	2	8	1	7	6
3	6	3	1	7	4	3	4

SOLUTION TO 3212

7	8	6	■	1	3	■	2
■	4	7	8	■	5	2	1
1	■	5	■	6	2	■	3
8	2	1	7	4	6	3	■
4	■	8	■	2	■	1	6
2	5	3	1	■	7	4	■
■	1	■	2	7	4	■	8
3	6	2	■	5	1	8	7

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3213



SOLUTION TO 3212

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3745

■	1							7
	9						8	
7		■	8			■		6
5	6		1		■			
				■	3			
		9	■		■			
	5	4	7			■		
	■			6		9	■	4
■					1	8		5

SOLUTION TO 3744

9	8	3	6	2	4	5	1	7
1	7	2	8	5	3	9	4	6
6	5	4	7	9	1	8	2	3
4	2	8	1	3	9	7	6	5
5	3	9	4	6	7	1	8	2
7	6	1	2	8	5	3	9	4
8	9	5	3	4	6	2	7	1
2	1	6	5	7	8	4	3	9
3	4	7	9	1	2	6	5	8

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LDOYD

BHCOT

RAHWTT

KAEEWN

Storm's a-coming. Our street is going to be a mess soon.
If only there was some kind of surface that didn't turn into mud when it rains.
ASPHALT WOULD EVENTUALLY BE USED TO PAVE STREETS, BUT THAT WAS STILL YEARS ---
5/15

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @Play.Jumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: TABOO SPOIL WINNER SPRUNG
Answer: She loved the bodybuilder's muscular build but was turned off by his — STRONG OPINIONS

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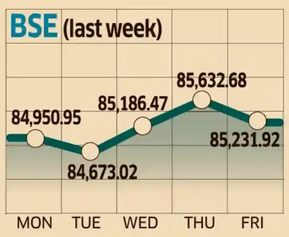
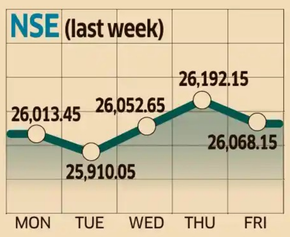
BSE (last week)



*Data as of Nov 21

TOP GAINERS		TOP LOSERS	
BHARTI AIRTL	3.06%	TMPV	-7.49%
INFY	2.80%	TATASTEEL	-3.53%
AXISBANK	2.62%	BEL	-2.52%
POWERGRID	2.34%	ADANIPORTS	-2.13%
TITAN	2.10%	BAJFINANCE	-1.30%

NSE (last week)



TOP GAINERS		TOP LOSERS	
HEROMOTOCRP	8.38%	TMPV	-8.69%
EICHER MOTO	6.56%	ADANI ENT	-3.75%
BHARTIAIRTL	2.95%	JIO FIN SER	-3.60%
INFOSYS L	2.81%	TATA STEEL	-3.59%
AXIS BANK LTD	2.75%	HINDALCO INDS	-3.23%

Sensex (52-week)

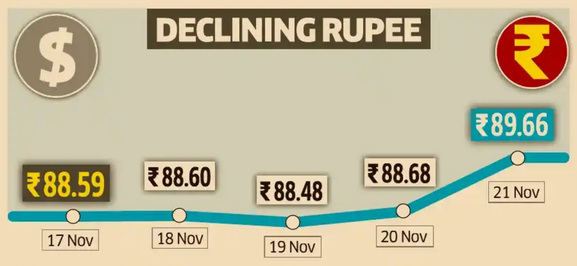
Nov 21, 2024: 77,155.79 — Nov 21, 2025: 85,231.92 — 10.47%

Nifty (52-week)

Nov 21, 2024: 23,349.90 — Nov 21, 2025: 26,068.15 — 11.64%

10-year Bond yield 6.56%

DECLINING RUPEE



Exchange Rates*

Dollar	₹89.66	SGD	₹68.30
Pound	₹116.07	Yen (100 units)	₹56.42
Euro	₹102.32		

*Price at which banks sell

Crude Oil Rate ($ per barrel)

BRENT CRUDE
$62.56*
-1.29%
*Rate as of Nov 22

Bengaluru fuel pump price*

(Retail)
Petrol* ₹102.98 ₹0.06% ▲
Diesel* ₹91.04 ₹0.05% ▲
*Rates as of Nov 22 #Rate change compared with yesterday

Commodity watch

COFFEE

Category	Rate (Rs per 50 kg)*
Arabica Parchment	₹28200 - 28500
Arabica Cherry	₹14200 - 14700
Robusta Parchment	₹16500 - 17500
Robusta Cherry	₹10300 - 10700

*Rates as on Nov 20

Other Commodities

Silkworm cocoon (Rs per kg)*

Bivoltine (BV)	₹801
Cross Breed (CB)	₹684

*Average rates as on Nov 21

Innovation, R&D boost in new IT Policy 2025-30

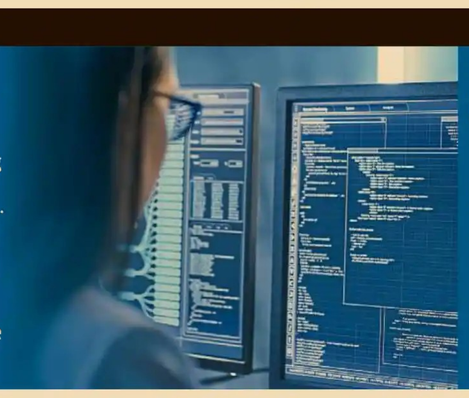
Karnataka's IT sector

IT/ITeS contributes over **26%** to the state's Gross State Value Added (GSVA)

The state is home to over **5,500** IT/ITeS companies, including about 750 MNCs

Generates direct jobs for over **12 lakh** professionals, and supports an additional 31 lakh indirect jobs

The state accounts for **43.67%** of India's total software exports



Skilling cost reimbursement

The government will reimburse 20% of the total expenses on the skilling initiative up to **Rs 36,000** per graduate, and **Rs 18,000** per diploma-holder for up to 100 employees

Reimbursement of additional **20%** of the total expenses if a skilled candidate is hired or placed, in accordance with the Nipuna Karnataka Guidelines.

Skilling programmes should be focused on deep tech/ emerging technologies

Aims to position state as a global leader in deep tech innovation

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

With an aim to promote R&D and innovation in the Information Technology and Information Technology-enabled Services (IT/ITeS) sector across Karnataka, the state government will provide incentive of 40% of the eligible R&D expenditure (maximum up to Rs 5 crore) for companies that plan to launch new units or expand in Bengaluru and Beyond Bengaluru.

Companies that are eligible can claim this incentive once under this policy. R&D covers basic research, applied research and experimental development activities.

The Karnataka government in its latest IT Policy 2025-2030, to attract and boost investments in Mysuru, Mangaluru, Shivamogga, Tumakuru, Kalaburagi, Hubballi-Dharwad, and Belagavi, has introduced many incentive packages. Under the new policy, any new IT/ITeS park that will be established Beyond Bengaluru can claim 20% of the eligible capital expenditure (maximum support of Rs 5 crore.)

The focus is more on Artificial Intelligence (AI) capabilities as the state aims to drive inclusive and sustainable growth through the adoption and development of next-generation technologies.

The policy aims to facilitate an enabling framework for IT product development and R&D spanning from early-stage prototyping, to scalable technology solutions encouraging a shift from service-based models to product centric innovation.

The policy targets to generate over 90 lakh direct and indirect jobs, and also increase software exports from Rs 4.09 lakh crore to Rs 11.5 lakh crore, by 2030.

"The policy includes a comprehensive set of enablers on which various initiatives and incentives are designed. These cover critical areas, such as infrastructure development, human capital advancement, industry promotion and commercial enablement, business continuity support, and enhanced ease of doing business," IT-BT Minister Priyank Kharge said.

He added that besides these, this policy also introduces interventions to proactively address emerging challenges, and encourage return of talent, thus creating a conducive ecosystem for IT companies to thrive, scale, and innovate.

Also, to make Karnataka a leader in the field of AI, a Centre for Applied AI for Tech Solutions (CATS) will be established with an investment of Rs 50 crore, over the next five years.

Future-ready workforce

The policy also highlights the importance of a future-ready workforce and it encourages internship opportunities for students and freshers. Those units which are expanding or opening in Bengaluru and Beyond Bengaluru can claim incentive for internships — about 50% of internship stipend for 3 months and it is capped at Rs 5,000 per month per intern. The number of interns eligible for incentive is limited to 15% of the workforce.

The Karnataka government will provide recruitment assistance to IT/ITeS units that are setting up new or expanding existing operations Beyond Bengaluru. If any unit newly recruits 100-250 people, assistance of 10% of expenses (cap at Rs 35 lakh), 251-500 employees (20% of expenses cap at Rs 1.2 cr), 501-700 (30% of expenses cap at Rs 3 crore), 701-999 (50% of expenses at Rs 7 cr), and above 1,000 employees (customised package on case-to-case basis).

Companies that are relocating talent from Bengaluru to Beyond Bengaluru regions will receive 50% of one-time relocation expenses up to Rs 50,000 per employee. This also includes relocations from anywhere outside the state to Beyond Bengaluru. Besides, other incentives include power tariff concession, electricity duty and property tax reimbursement.

The policy also mentioned that mega projects (investment above Rs 300 crore) will be considered for customised incentive packages.

Semiconductor, deep tech tracks gain prominence in BTS 2025

BENGALURU, DHNS: The 28th edition of three-day Bengaluru Tech Summit 2025 'Futurise' saw over 92,000 attendees and 633 speakers from 57 countries. Semiconductor and deep tech tracks gained prominence this year, with the government observing massive growth opportunities in these two sectors, specifically.

Apart from the Rs 400-crore disbursement by the government, along with venture capitalists, towards AI and deep tech startups, the former announced financial support for 11 technology business incubators (TBIs) located across key academic and research institutions in the state. Each TBI has been allocated about Rs 10 crore over five years. Also, the India-US MoU was signed to advance cooperation in critical and emerging technologies, spanning AI, defence, space, quantum computing, clean energy, and telecommunications.

Another highlight of the summit was the recognition that the founders of various startups received, including quick commerce platform Zepto. BTS 2025 featured knowledge tracks across IT & Deep Tech, Electronics & Semicon, DigiHealth & Biotech, FinVerse, AI Universe, Frontier Technologies, and Spacetech & Aerospace. Many sessions focused on how India should fast-track its strength in chip design and that skills can be leveraged even before large-scale fabs are ready.

Experts highlighted India Semiconductor Mission, PLI/DLI (Production Linked Incentive/Design Linked Incentive) schemes, and how they are derisking capex for fabs and OSAT (Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test). Since the event was held at the Bangalore International Exhibition Centre (BIEC), free Metro tickets were provided, and a total of 5,095 tickets were booked in three days.

India needs 8.2 lakh cybersecurity professionals: Quess

Says B'luru, Hyd anchor country's most mature cybersecurity ecosystems

MAHESH KULKARNI,
BENGALURU, DHNS

India is emerging as a trusted global hub for cybersecurity innovation, transformation, and managed defence. With over 3,80,000 professionals powering identity, cloud, and threat-defence programmes, the country is staring at a talent deficit of over 8,20,000 professionals, a Quess Corp report shows.

The country's cybersecurity demand is accelerating at an unprecedented speed, led by Identity & Access Architecture (IAM, PAM, CIAM) at about 23%, Threat Intelligence & Response at about 20%, and Automation & Platform Security at about 18%. Together, these clusters account for over 60% of total hiring activity.

The demand is concentrated in GCCs and BFSI captives, with FY25 hiring signals ranging from accelerating in GCCs to selective in MSSPs. Emerging hotspots include Privacy Engineering (DPDP) and DevSecOps pipelines, among digital-native firms.

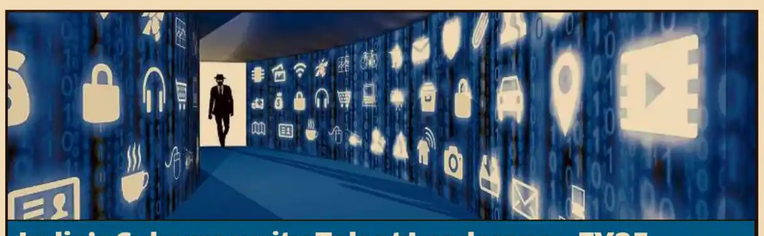
The latest Cybersecurity Talent Landscape Report from Quess provides a comprehensive view of India's position as a global cybersecurity delivery hub, covering demand trends, supply composition, compensation differentials, and location strategy across leading capability domains.

According to the report, Bengaluru and Hyderabad continue to anchor the country's most mature cybersecurity ecosystems, while Pune and Chennai have become strategic centres for SOC modernisation, CloudSec, and DevSecOps. NCR and Mumbai are emerging as governance and privacy strongholds. Tier-2 cities such as Coimbatore, Kochi, and Jaipur now contribute about 8% of the active cybersecurity demand, signalling a deeper national talent footprint.

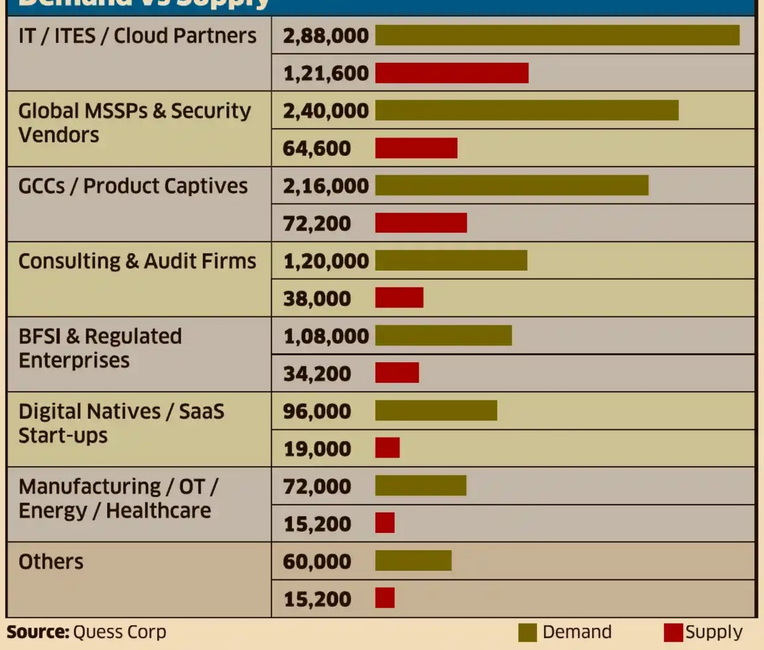
"The market is witnessing 20-35% pay premiums for specialists in PAM, IGA, Cloud-Native Guardrails, and CNAPP. As enterprises re-architect security around Zero-Trust principles, automation, and digital-trust frameworks, India's unique blend of technical depth, delivery excellence, and cost efficiency is fast-emerging as a definitive global competitive advantage," said Quess IT Staffing Chief Executive Officer Kapil Joshi.

This gap is not a challenge alone—it's India's biggest opportunity. By accelerating reskilling, investing in CloudSec, AppSec, and Privacy Engineering, and expanding Tier-2 cyber hubs, India can build the most-scalable, future-ready cybersecurity workforce globally, he added.

India's cybersecurity roles are converging around automation, cloud, and data governance engineering. The emergence of AI-enabled threat analysis, Zero-Trust architecture, and platform security ownership indicates that the country is moving from a service delivery model to an innovation-led security engineering economy, the report added.



India's Cybersecurity Talent Landscape – FY25 Demand vs Supply


IT / ITES / Cloud Partners 2,88,000 1,21,600
Global MSSPs & Security Vendors 2,40,000 64,600
GCCs / Product Captives 2,16,000 72,200
Consulting & Audit Firms 1,20,000 38,000
BFSI & Regulated Enterprises 1,08,000 34,200
Digital Natives / SaaS Start-ups 96,000 19,000
Manufacturing / OT / Energy / Healthcare 72,000 15,200
Others 60,000 15,200

Source: Quess Corp — Demand — Supply

FinMin renews merger proposal of state-owned general insurers

NEW DELHI, PTI

The Union Finance Ministry is considering an earlier proposal to merge the three state-owned general insurance companies into a single entity, following their improved financial health, to achieve better efficiency and scale.

The government infused Rs 17,450 crore between 2019-20 and 2021-22 in three PSU general insurance companies, namely Oriental Insurance, National Insurance and United India Insurance, to bring them out of financial distress.

In the Budget for 2018-19, the then finance minister Arun Jaitley announced that the three companies — Oriental Insurance, National Insurance, and United India Insurance—would be merged into a single insurance entity.

Nirmala Sitharaman

However, the government dropped the idea in July 2020, and the Union Cabinet rather approved a capital infusion of Rs 12,450 crore into the three general insurance companies.

As their finances have improved, the finance ministry is doing a preliminary assessment of the merger of these entities, with a view to improving their efficiency, sources said.

Besides, the proposal to privatise a general insurance company, as announced by the government, is being examined, sources said, adding that various options are on the table, but nothing has been firmed up yet.

It is to be noted that Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, while announcing the 2021-22 Budget, had announced a big-ticket privatisation agenda, including the privatisation of two public sector banks and one general insurance company.

DH INTERVIEW

'We need more people who look at social innovation in serious manner'

Infosys Foundation, the philanthropic and CSR arm of Infosys, last week announced eight winners at the fourth edition of the Aarohan Social Innovation Awards for transformative innovations in education, healthcare and environment sustainability. These innovators were awarded a total of Rs 2 crore. In an interaction with **Uma Kannan** of *DH*, Infosys Foundation Trustee **Sunil Kumar Dhareshwar** said there is a need for more people who look at social innovation in a very serious manner and build a vibrant ecosystem of innovators. Edited excerpts:

Can you tell us more about the Aarohan Social Innovation Awards and its beginnings?

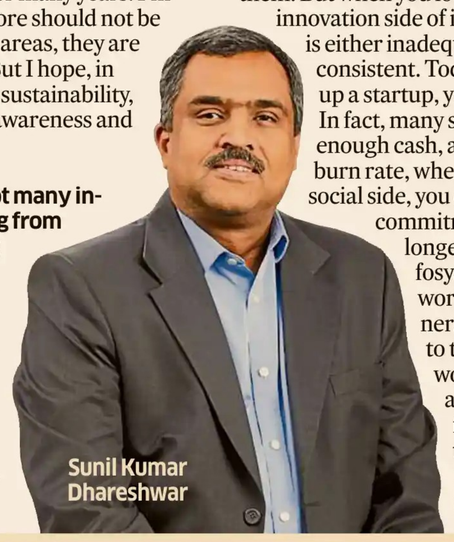
The awards were first instituted in 2018 and the brain child behind this was Mrs Sudha Murty. She stepped down as the chairperson of the foundation a few years ago, after nearly 25 years of service. Her view was that you need to have innovation, and there has to be social innovation that should be accessible and affordable, because the purpose is for the larger social good. If you reach a larger section of the society and along the way, given that the foundation is part of Infosys, an IT company, technology needs to be part of these solutions, as it also brings the ability to reach remote parts of the country. The awards that have been set up are social innovation awards. Initially, when it started in 2018, it was just an award, but today, when we look at the fourth edition, we have now created an ecosystem of innovators. From 900 applications in 2018, this edition, we received about 2,065 across diverse areas.

Is there any particular focus area in terms of selection?

There are three focus areas that we've considered- education, healthcare, and environmental sustainability. And these also largely align with what Infosys Foundation is doing as part of its corporate CSR work. We believe that these three are the core pillars. We've had fairly equal kind of applications, and personally, I would like more to happen on the environmental sustainability side, because education and health have been there for many years. I'm not saying that more should not be done in these two areas, they are still inadequate. But I hope, in environment and sustainability, we will see more awareness and innovation.

Why are there not many innovations coming from the environment sustainability area?

One is that it needs a lot more R&D and investment. If you look at the social side, the biggest or the primary issue that you have is funding. When you say startups, there is a different way of looking at it, because they are primarily profit-driven, and therefore there are more funds and people who are also willing to invest in them. But when you look at the social innovation side of it, the funding is either inadequate or it is not consistent. Today, when you set up a startup, you get funding. In fact, many startups have enough cash, and we call the burn rate, whereas, on the social side, you don't get these commitments for a longer period. At Infosys Foundation, we work with NGO partners, and we commit to them that we will work with them for at least three to four years so that they don't have to search for any other funding.


Sunil Kumar Dhareshwar

The second issue is to get the right set of people. There is also a challenge in terms of getting people engaged in social innovation, because people who are involved in the social sector do it part-time. You need someone who is willing to devote themselves to social innovation. At the end of the day, profit should not be the primary purpose under which you do social innovation, it needs to be sustainable. The third thing is to build that ecosystem. Today, we believe that we are on the path of building a larger ecosystem of partners, because you need philanthropy, foundations, NGO partners, policy makers, and the government, as they all need to work as an ecosystem that is able to deliver. More awareness will help in terms of building that.

What can be done to develop an ecosystem that is more into social innovation?

You need more people who look at social innovation in a very serious manner. The second is to build this ecosystem of all the stakeholders. The third one is building capability. You need to be in a situation where social innovators are sure of continuous funding, which happens in the startup side, so that they can start as an idea, do a prototype, and then be able to execute, scale and sustain it. And lastly, one thing that we should not forget is to ensure that it is inclusive. It should reach the people who need these solutions. These are the ways to look at it as we move forward in the next five years.

What role does technology play in terms of social innovation?

Technology is emerging and there is a lot more embedded technology that we can see today in solutions. Artificial Intelligence (AI) is evolving, and in the social innovation side, it's coming into play, and we'll possibly see more of it soon. Technology ensures that you are able to scale and reach a larger section of society.

TOP PICKS

The data is sourced from Motilal Oswal Financial Services Limited

Max Healthcare
(ID: MAXHEALTH)
BUY
Upside +15%**
Last close ₹1,179
Target: ₹1,360*

Reliance Industries
(ID: RELIANCE)
BUY
Upside +10%**
Last close ₹1,544
Target: ₹1,700*

Airtel
(ID: AIRTELPP)
BUY
Upside +9%**
Last close ₹2,165
Target: ₹2,365*

M&M
(ID: M&M)
BUY
Upside +10%**
Last close ₹3,747
Target: ₹4,122*

Poonawalla
(ID: POONAWALLA)
BUY
Upside +29%**
Last close ₹469
Target: ₹605*

* Target price has been calculated on the basis of fundamentals ** Upside refers to more value stock is expected to generate than its current price

Why Category III AIFs are defining India's investing landscape

Indian investors have linked mutual funds and stocks to wealth creation for decades. But a subtle structural change is now taking place. A growing number of wealthy and seasoned investors are investigating investment vehicles that go beyond the traditional ones in order to better manage downside risk while capturing alpha. Category III Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) are starting to take center stage. Unlike mutual funds, Category III AIFs are designed for active wealth creation using long-short, arbitrage, and hedging methods, enabling specialised fund managers to produce returns using different strategies across market cycles. They represent the growth of India's investing ecosystem.

A smarter way to construct portfolios

Hedge fund-style strategies are still used by seasoned investors globally to strike a balance between stability and returns. Category III AIFs in India are adapting that mindset for domestic markets, building resilient portfolios with quantitative, factor-based, and multi-strategy frameworks. Research states that the global hedge fund sector exceeded $5 trillion in 2024, and Sebi's March 2025 data shows that India's AIF assets exceeded 9.5 lakh crore. Category III funds now account for approximately 15% of the total, a tiny but constantly growing share. These funds provide fund managers with greater flexibility, allowing them to take both long and short positions, employ derivatives to reduce risk, and leverage opportunities across sectors. However, taxation and leverage restrictions remain barriers for long short strategies.

A need for regulatory evolution

As India's AIF ecosystem deepens, regulatory refinement will play a key role in sustaining innovation without compromising investor protection. Sebi has already taken progressive steps, such as tightening disclosure norms, improving valuation practices, and mandating independent trustees for fund oversight. However, as fund strategies become more sophisticated, frameworks around risk reporting, liquidity management, and performance benchmarking need to evolve too.

TEJAS KHODAY
CEO AND CO-FOUNDER, FYERS

For instance, a 2024 PwC report highlights that global institutional investors are demanding greater transparency and governance in alternative funds. India is likely to follow the same trajectory where innovation and compliance coexist, and fund managers balance creativity with fiduciary discipline. Ultimately, the goal should be to ensure that AIFs not only generate alpha, but also earn investor trust through reliable governance and consistent disclosures.

Integration into modern wealth advisory

Wealth managers are increasingly integrating AIFs into their advisory portfolios to meet the evolving demands of high-net-worth individuals (HNIs). The new-age affluent investor is not just looking for returns; they are looking for differentiation, transparency, and alignment of interest with their fund managers. A recent study showed that over 60% of wealth managers plan to increase AIF allocations within client portfolios over the next two years, driven by the appetite for strategies that go beyond conventional beta. Investors are no longer satisfied with following benchmarks; instead, they want methods that leverage data, technology, and tactical flexibility to take advantage of market inefficiencies.

The rise of the evolving investor

Today, we are seeing a maturation of investor behaviour in addition to the growth of financial products. Creating wealth is no longer about following trends or mindlessly sticking to standards. These days, investors place a high value on structured risk-taking, data-driven insight, and governance. Category III AIFs will probably become the go-to option for active wealth creation, as more investors transition from do-it-yourself trading to professional wealth management.

Policy & liquidity: Are we into a new growth phase?

India's invesatment cycle is showing some signs of revival

RAJ VYAS

India's economy today stands at a crucial inflection point. On the one hand, the government and regulators are taking a far more proactive, forward-looking approach, while on the other, the banking system and overall liquidity conditions are witnessing notable shifts. This raises an important question: Is India entering a new phase of economic growth? If yes, then what could be the key triggers powering this next leg, and what headwinds should investors expect?

India's current economic condition

In the April-June quarter of FY26, India recorded a 7.8% YoY GDP growth, the fastest in five quarters, compared with 5.6% in the same quarter last year.

Government spending rebounded with a growth of 7.5%, aided by early fund disbursements and higher allocations. Investment activity remained healthy, with gross fixed capital formation up by 7.8%, driven by significant increase in government capital expenditure. Exports grew 6.3%, despite global trade challenges, supported by strong demand from markets such as the US.

The IMF expects India to grow faster than earlier estimates despite the US tariff impact.

GST cuts, infra push, and export promotion

A recent GST rate cut supported festive demand, with auto sales reaching record monthly volumes and spending on jewellery, electronics, apparel, furnishings, and sweets crossing Rs 6 lakh crore between September 22 and October 21, up 8.5% from last year. Despite the GST cut, gross collections in October rose 4.6% to about Rs 1.96 lakh crore, reflecting strong domestic consumption.

Infrastructure spending has increased significantly, with capital expenditure rising from Rs 2 lakh crore in 2014-15, to Rs 11.21 lakh crore in 2025-26 — about 3.4% of GDP. The government is currently fast-tracking mega projects, including bullet train corridors, large shipbuilding yards, multiple ports, and highway expansions, under the Viksit Bharat 2047 vision.

Furthermore, to counter US tariffs, the government launched the Export Promotion Mission on November 13,

with Rs 25,060 crore to be disbursed over six years, supporting sectors like textiles, leather, gems and jewellery, engineering goods, and marine products to boost exports.

Monetary easing and liquidity push by RBI

The RBI has introduced several measures to maintain adequate liquidity. These include Open Market Operations worth Rs 1.25 lakh crore and a 100-basis-point reduction in the Cash Reserve Ratio, implemented in phases, which released around Rs 2.7 lakh crore into the banking system.

Bank credit growth rose from 10.2% in early September, to 11.3% by mid-October, supported by festive spending and GST rate cuts. The repo rate has also been reduced to 5.50%, lowering borrowing costs.

Retail inflation fell to a historic low of 0.25% in October 2025. With inflation well below the RBI's 4% target, the environment appears conducive for further easing in the December 2025 policy review.

Are we really entering a new phase?

Recent indicators point toward a potential shift into a stronger economic phase for India. The growth cycle appears to be bottoming out, supported by falling crude oil prices, expectations of a normal monsoon, and a stable interest-rate environment.

India's investment cycle is showing some signs of revival. Government spending on infrastructure and manufacturing remains robust, while private investments are gradually strengthening. The real estate sector is recovering, and fresh opportunities are emerging in renewable energy, supply-chain localisation, and advanced technology components.

Market conditions also remain favourable. Nifty valuations hover slightly above their 10-year average, and the RBI recently raised its GDP growth forecast for FY26 to 6.8%. A true 'new phase' would mean more structural improvements, sustained higher growth, broader sector participation, and a shift in growth drivers toward investment-led expansion.

Challenges to India's growth momentum

Global headwinds: Slow growth in the US and Europe, rising geopolitical tensions, and unpredictable trade policies remain a concern.

Foreign investors: FIIs have been selling for four straight months, adding stress to financial markets, although September outflows were not very large.

Currency pressure: The rupee has weakened through 2025 due to a strong US dollar, elevated oil prices, and FII outflows, though recent signs of a potential US-India trade agreement have helped stabilise it.

Corporate earnings: Analysts expect the markets to stay range-bound until earnings growth reaches a steady 12-15%. Much of the recent earnings strength is limited to commodity-linked sectors.

Private investment: A predictable business environment, faster approvals, and stronger governance are needed to attract long-term capital.

Sectors likely to drive India's next growth cycle

Capital Goods & Infrastructure: Strong government capex and multi-year project pipelines will drive construction, industrial equipment demand, and logistics expansion.

Manufacturing: Electronics, PLI-linked sectors, semiconductors, components, and renewable energy equipment stand out as global supply chains diversify.

Banking & Financial Services: A cleaner banking system, falling NPAs, and double-digit loan growth position BFSI as an outperformer.

Aerospace & Defence: Rising indigenisation and multi-year order visibility make this a long-term structural theme.

Renewable Energy & EVs: Green capacity addition, battery storage, and EV adoption will support multi-decade opportunities.

India's economic momentum is clearly strengthening, with Ind-Ra projecting 7.2% GDP growth for Q2 FY26, supported by resilient private consumption and a robust services sector. As the economy enters a new growth phase, the next big opportunity lies in reviving private investment, backed by policy tailwinds, rising household incomes, and macroeconomic stability.

(The writer is Vice President—Research, Teji Mandi)

WEEK AHEAD

Healthy macros may hold markets steady

Last week, markets opened strong, but retreated later due to weak PMI data

SIDDHARTHA KHEMKA

Indian equities, this week, are likely to hold firm supported by healthy domestic macros, improving demand outlook for Q3 and resilient flows. Any progress on the India-US trade talks would be a key near term catalyst for the markets. Markets will track key global data calendar this week, including US Q3 GDP, Producer Price Index, Consumer Confidence data and retail sales.

Last week, markets opened strong on the back of NDA's Bihar victory and optimism around trade negotiations between US and India, but later retreated after failing to break its all-time high of 26,277, and ended at 26,068 with gains of +0.6%. Even weak India's Composite Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) data, which slipped to 59.9 in November from 60.4 in October, dampened the sentiment. While large caps are witnessing buying interest, broader markets saw selling pressure with Midcap100 down -0.7% while Smallcap100 fell -2.2%. Sectoral performance was broadly muted, with most segments facing pressure, while IT and auto showed some resilience.

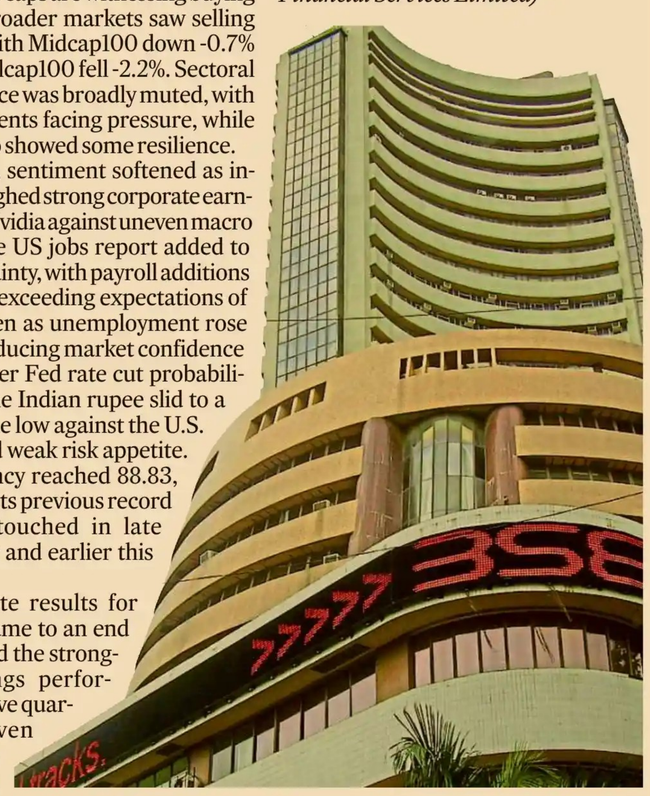
Globally, sentiment softened as investors weighed strong corporate earnings from Nvidia against uneven macro trends. The US jobs report added to the uncertainty, with payroll additions of 119,000 exceeding expectations of 55,000 even as unemployment rose to 4.4%, reducing market confidence in December Fed rate cut probability. Thus, the Indian rupee slid to a new all-time low against the U.S. dollar amid weak risk appetite. The currency reached 88.83, breaching its previous record of 88.80 touched in late September and earlier this month.

Corporate results for 2QFY26 came to an end and marked the strongest earnings performance in five quarters, driven by broad-based strength across oil & gas, metals, NBFCs, cement, capital goods and telecom. Midcaps and smallcaps once again outpaced large caps in earnings growth, while the weakness within the large-cap universe was primarily due to subdued results from Private Banks and Automobiles. We expect this gap to narrow, as large caps appear well-positioned for earnings rebound with NIMs stabilising for banks and early signs of renewed momentum in auto names.

Meanwhile, the electronics/EMS sector saw some positive developments at the 8th Electronic Summit, wherein emphasis was laid on deeper backward integration, favourable policy discussions, and rising exports, with ECMS approvals for 24 projects worth Rs 7,100 crore reinforcing the sector's long-term opportunity.

Overall, domestic fundamentals, improving FII flows and progress on the India–US trade pact keep the broader market outlook positive, even as global headwinds may drive short-term swings. We view current volatility as an opportunity to accumulate high-quality, high-earnings-growth names with a medium- to long-term horizon.

(The writer is Head of Research, Wealth Management, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Limited)



Mcap of 7 of top-10 most valued firms surges Rs 1.28L cr

NEW DELHI, PTI: The combined market valuation of seven of the top-10 most valued firms surged by Rs 1,28,281.52 crore last week, with Reliance Industries and Bharti Airtel emerging as the biggest gainers, in line with a positive trend in equities.

Last week, the BSE benchmark jumped 669.14 points or 0.79%.

While Reliance Industries, HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), State Bank of India, Infosys and Hindustan Unilever were the gainers, Bajaj Finance, Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) and ICICI Bank faced erosion in their valuation.

The market valuation of Reliance Industries jumped by Rs 36,673 crore to Rs 20,92,052.61 crore.

Bharti Airtel's valuation surged by Rs 36,579.01 crore to Rs 12,33,279.85 crore.

The valuation of Infosys zoomed by Rs 17,490.03 crore to Rs 6,41,688.83 crore, and that of TCS rallied by Rs 16,299.49 crore to Rs 11,39,715.66 crore.

The market capitalisation (mcap) of HDFC Bank grew by Rs 14,608.22 crore to Rs 15,35,132.56 crore, and that of State Bank of India rose by Rs 4,846.08 crore to Rs 8,97,769.87 crore.

Hindustan Unilever's mcap advanced by Rs 1,785.69 crore to Rs 5,71,972.75 crore.

However, the market valuation of Bajaj Finance eroded by Rs 8,244.79 crore to Rs 6,25,328.59 crore.

The mcap of LIC tumbled by Rs 4,522.38 crore to Rs 5,70,578.04 crore.

ICICI Bank's mcap declined by Rs 1,248.08 crore to Rs 9,79,126.35 crore.

Reliance Industries remained the most valued domestic firm, followed by HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, TCS, ICICI Bank, State Bank of India, Infosys, Bajaj Finance, Hindustan Unilever and LIC.

India diversifies export basket

NEW DELHI, PTI: Share of India's merchandise exports to other countries increased as shipments to the US declined since July 2025, indicating diversification of export basket across product categories, according to an SBI research report.

India's total merchandise exports during April-September 2025 inched up by 2.9% to $220 billion, compared to $214 billion in the year-ago period, the report said.

Cumulative exports to the US also registered a growth of 13% to $45 billion in the April-September period from $40 billion in the year-ago period, though there could be some front-loading effects to the aftermath, with September figures registering negative year-on-year growth of about 12$, said 'Ecowrap', the SBI's research report.

The report further said the share of the US in India's exports has been declining since July 2025, falling to 15% in September, mainly because of a decline in exports of marine products, precious and semi-precious stones, readymade cotton garments, and cotton fabrics.

"Interestingly, the share of India's merchandise exports to other countries during this period has increased significantly, indicating diversification of exports with the UAE, China, Vietnam, Japan, and Hong Kong, as also Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Nigeria being among the top destinations (over FY25)," the report said.

DH REVIEW

Oppo Find X9: Reliable performer with feature-rich camera

ROHIT KVN
BENGALURU, DHNS

Last weekend, Oppo officially launched its new flagship, the Find X9, bringing significant upgrades over its predecessor.

Design, Build, and Display

The Find X9 introduces an all-new design language. Unlike the X8 series with its massive circular camera deco, the successor flaunts a curved square quad-camera module with Hasselblad branding at the top-left corner.

Smooth aluminium flat rails encase the edges, and the back panel features a frosted glass-like texture. In addition to offering a secure grip, it does a fine job of resisting fingerprint smudges.

The screen is protected by Corning Gorilla Glass 7i, and the device boasts IP66, IP68, and IP69 water and dust resistance rating. It can survive immersion in up to 1.5 metres of fresh water for up to 30 minutes and even withstand hot water jets. Oppo also pre-applies a screen guard and offers a free protective case with the retail box.

The new Snap Key on the top-left side of the frame is a standout feature. By default, it launches AI Mind Space, Oppo's generative AI feature. Users can also reprogram the key to launch their favourite apps, toggle ring/silent/vibration modes, or trigger the camera.

The base houses a Type-C port, speaker, dual nano-SIM slots, and a 3D ultrasonic in-display fingerprint sensor for swift unlocking. At the top, it houses an infrared sensor, which comes in handy to operate IoT products and even as a remote controller for select smart TVs at home.

On the front, it sports a 6.59-inch 1.5K AMOLED display with super-thin 1.15mm bezels. It supports 120Hz adaptive refresh rate, 3,600 nits peak brightness, and Dolby Vision support. The device is great for multimedia consumption, doom-scrolling newsfeeds, and watching reels endlessly on social media apps

Performance, and Software

Oppo's new phone is powered by MediaTek's Dimensity 9500 chipset, Arm

Mali-G1 Ultra MC12 GPU, and Oppo's Trinity Engine. It delivers smooth and stable performance in gaming, 4K video recording, and while running generative AI-powered applications.

A redesigned vapour chamber with high-performance thermal materials does a fine job with efficient heat dissipation during heavy-duty tasks.

The device runs Android 16-based ColorOS 16. It delivers a fluid user interface, with smooth transitions and natural, expressive animations while launching an app or switching between apps.

Oppo promises five years of OS updates and six years of security patches. Cellular and internet connectivity is boosted by a proprietary RF chip and 360-degree antenna architecture.

It also houses a 3rd-gen Silicon Carbon technology-based battery with 7,025mAh capacity.

Under normal usage, it can easily last more than one and a half days. It supports 80W wired and 50W wireless charging speeds.

Cameras and Imaging

The Hasselblad quad-camera setup includes a 50MP main (Sony LYT808), 50MP ultra-wide, 50MP 3x periscope telephoto (Sony LYT600), and a 2MP portrait lens.

The Lumo Imaging Engine camera tech ensures excellent details and colours in the photos in natural sun-lit environments. It also excels in low-light conditions.

It does a fine job with portrait mode, way better than most rival brands in its class. It features AI Portrait Glow, which tries to effectively capture the subject's natural skin tone even in uneven lighting conditions.

Other notable gen AI tools include AI Eraser and AI Recompose, which perform a fine job of enhancing the photography experience on the Find X9.

It supports 4K Motion Photo and 4K Dolby Vision video at 120fps. The 32MP front camera delivers sharp selfies in almost all light conditions and can record 4K video at 60fps.

Verdict

Besides delivering a stable performance, the premium Oppo Find X9 excels with its versatile cameras and impressive long-lasting battery life, making it a compelling alternative to other branded flagship phones.

Modi, Carney to kick-start India-Canada CEPA talks

NEW DELHI, DHNS: India and Canada will soon start negotiations for a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), Prime Ministers Narendra Modi and Mark Carney agreed on Sunday, moving from the acrimony over the murder of Khalistani Sikh extremist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Surrey.

New Delhi and Ottawa also agreed on "deeper cooperation in defence and space sectors". The bilateral meeting took place on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Johannesburg, where both leaders agreed to begin negotiations on a high-ambition CEPA aimed at doubling the bilateral trade between Canada and India – both hit by US President Donald Trump's tariff tirade – to $50 billion by 2030.

The meeting between the two leaders was the second between them. They had first met on the sidelines of the G7 summit at Kananaskis, Alberta, on June 18, when they had agreed to rebuild bilateral ties, strained after Carney's predecessor, Justin Trudeau, alleged New Delhi's involvement in Nijjar's 2023 murder in Canada.

Joint counter-terror initiative

Meanwhile, India and Italy on Sunday agreed on a roadmap for countering the financing of terrorism.

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni conveyed to Modi Italy's solidarity with India on the explosion in Delhi and reiterated her government's strong commitment to work together with New Delhi to combat the scourge of terrorism.

UNSC reforms no longer an option, but a necessity: PM Modi

Proposes grouping's fund for climate-resilient agriculture

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with world leaders during a session at the G20 Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa, on Sunday. PTI

Global governance institutions are far removed from 21st-century realities, said Prime Minister Narendra Modi as he was joined by his counterparts, Brazil's Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and South Africa's Cyril Ramaphosa, for a meeting of the IBSA leaders on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Johannesburg on Sunday.

Ramaphosa hosted the summit of the IBSA — a bloc comprising India, Brazil, and South Africa.

Modi called on IBSA to send a strong message that reform of institutions of global governance — in particular the UN Security Council (UNSC) — was no longer an option but an imperative. He also proposed an IBSA Fund for climate-resilient agriculture.

The IBSA leaders met amid all three constituents finding themselves at the receiving end of US President Donald Trump's tariff tirade. Trump imposed a 50% tariff on imports from India and Brazil to the US, and 30% on South Africa's exports.

Describing the IBSA meeting as "timely", Modi noted that it coincided with the first G20 Summit in Africa and marked the culmination of four consecutive G20 presidencies by Global South countries, of which the last three were IBSA members. This, he noted, resulted in several important initiatives focused on human-centric development, multilateral reform, and sustainable growth.

"We must work in close coordination in the fight against terrorism. On an issue of such gravity, there can be no room for double standards. For the sake of global peace and prosperity, united and decisive action is essential," he said during the IBSA meeting.

Highlighting technology's crucial role in ensuring human-centric development, Modi proposed establishing an "IBSA Digital Innovation Alliance" to facilitate the sharing of digital public infrastructure like UPI, health platforms like CoWIN, cybersecurity frameworks, and women-led tech initiatives.

He also emphasised the IBSA's potential to contribute to the development of safe, trustworthy, and human-centric AI norms.

He also said the grouping could complement each other's development and become an example for sustainable growth.

He highlighted cooperation opportunities in areas such as millets, natural farming, disaster resilience, green energy, traditional medicines and health security.

"Today's world appears fragmented and divided on many fronts. In such a time, the IBSA can offer a message of unity, cooperation, and humanity. This is both our responsibility and our strength as three democratic nations," said Modi.

"With the support of the IBSA Fund, we have implemented nearly 50 projects across 40 countries. These initiatives, ranging from education and health to women's empowerment and solar energy, have been shaped by the needs of local communities," he said.

CLOSE COORDINATION

- PM Modi emphasises the IBSA's potential to contribute to the development of safe, trustworthy, and human-centric AI norms
- In the fight against terrorism, we must move forward in close coordination. There is no place for any double standards on such a serious issue, said Indian PM
- He proposes establishing an 'IBSA Digital Innovation Alliance' to facilitate the sharing of Digital Public Infrastructure like UPI, health platforms like CoWIN, cybersecurity frameworks and women-led tech initiatives among the three countries

'G20 summit outcome renews commitment to multilateralism'

Cyril Ramaphosa

JOHANNESBURG, REUTERS: South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa said on Sunday that the declaration from this weekend's Group of 20 summit reflected a "renewed commitment to multilateral cooperation", concluding a meeting that pitted him against his U.S. counterpart.

Ramaphosa, host of the Johannesburg summit, pushed through the declaration addressing challenges like the climate crisis despite objections from the United States, which boycotted the event.

Addressing the closing ceremony, Ramaphosa said the declaration showed world leaders' "shared goals outweigh our differences".

US President Donald Trump boycotted the November 22-23 summit on the grounds of allegations, which have been comprehensively falsified, that the host country's Black majority government persecutes its white minority.

Trump had also rejected South Africa's agenda of helping developing nations transition to clean energy, cut their crippling debt costs and adapt to climate change-induced weather disasters.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

France's President Emmanuel Macron (L) is welcomed by Gabon's President Brice Oligui Nguema upon his arrival at Léon-Mba International Airport in Libreville on Sunday. AFP

Putin's forthcoming visit to India will be very fruitful: Kremlin aide

▶ President Vladimir Putin's forthcoming visit to India will be "extremely grand" and "fruitful", Russian State TV said on Sunday quoting Kremlin foreign policy aide Yuri Ushakov, reports PTI from Moscow.

"We and the Indian side are actively preparing for the visit and hope it will be fruitful in every sense. It will be an extremely grand (visit) because it's even called a state visit," Ushakov said, in an interview to VGTRK Russian State TV's Kremlin correspondent Pavel Zarubin. "The visit provides an opportunity to put into practice the agreement between the prime minister of India and the Russian president that they will meet annually for a thorough discussion on both bilateral affairs and current international issues," Ushakov said.

According to him the dates will be simultaneously announced in New Delhi and Moscow closer to the visit.

Last Monday while welcoming External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said that Putin's New Delhi visit will take place in three weeks.

50 kidnapped Nigerian kids escape

▶ Fifty of the more than 300 children snatched by gunmen from a Catholic school in Nigeria have escaped their captors, a Christian group said in a statement on Sunday, reports AFP from Lagos.

"We have received some good news as fifty pupils escaped and have reunited with their parents," said the Christian Association of Nigeria in a statement, adding they escaped between Friday and Saturday.

Gunmen on Friday raided St Mary's co-education school in Niger state, taking 303 children and 12 teachers in one of the largest mass kidnappings in Nigeria. The abduction came after gunmen had on Monday stormed a secondary school in neighbouring Kebbi state, abducting 25 girls, as security fears mount in Africa's most populous nation, sparking a wave of school closures across other parts of the country.

From left: British actor Idris Elba, and US actors Ginnifer Goodwin, Jason Bateman, and Ke Huy Quan pose on the red carpet at the UK premiere of 'Zootropolis 2' in London on Sunday. AFP

Stronger quake may hit B'desh

▶ Experts have urged the Bangladesh government to take immediate action after an earthquake claimed at least 10 lives in the country, warning that a far stronger tremor may lie ahead and that failure to act now could result in greater losses, reports PTI from Dhaka.

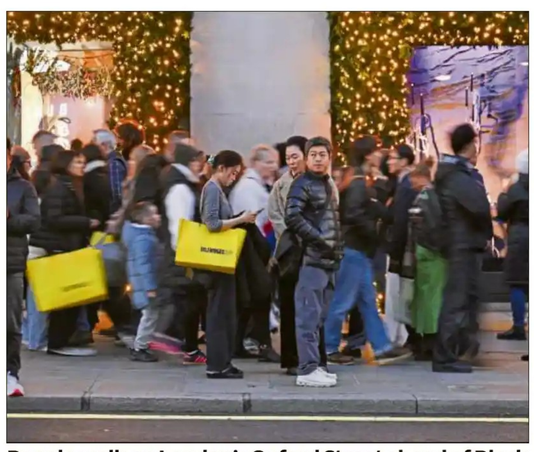
A 5.7-magnitude earthquake struck on Friday morning, causing at least 10 deaths and significant damage to buildings, mostly in central parts of Bangladesh, including the capital Dhaka. Three mild-intensity tremors also rocked the country on Saturday.

British-Indian spy honoured

▶ Noor Inayat Khan, a descendent of the 18th-century Mysore ruler Tipu Sultan, has become the only Indian-origin woman to be honoured with a commemorative postage stamp by France for her role in the French Resistance as an undercover British agent during the Second World War, reports PTI from London.

The French postal service, La Poste, honoured Noor with a stamp issued to honour the "Figures of the Resistance" who fought against Nazi Germany. She is among a dozen war heroes and heroines chosen on the set of stamps issued this month to mark 80 years since the end of World War II.

"I am delighted that France has honoured Noor Inayat Khan with a postage stamp," said Shrabani Basu, the London-based author of Noor's biography.



People walk on London's Oxford Street ahead of Black Friday next week on Sunday. REUTERS

Lakshmi Mittal to quit UK over taxes on super-rich

LONDON, PTI

Lakshmi Mittal

Indian-origin steel magnate Lakshmi N Mittal, until now based in Britain and a regular on the country's richest billionaires tally, has decided to quit the UK as the Labour Party-led government's feared tax shake-up for the super-rich nears, according to a UK media report on Sunday.

Rajasthan-born Mittal is a resident in Switzerland for tax and will now spend much of his future in Dubai, according to the 'The Sunday Times'.

The founder of ArcelorMittal steelworks is worth an estimated 15.4 billion pounds as per the 2025 'Sunday Times Rich List', which ranked him the UK's eighth richest man.

Now, the newspaper references sources close to the 75-year-old industrialist to claim he has become the latest billionaire to leave the UK ahead of a much-anticipated Budget by Chancellor Rachel Reeves on Wednesday.

Mittal already has a mansion in Dubai and has now bought up "tracts of an intriguing development on the nearby Naïa Island" in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the newspaper claims.

The news of Mittal's exit comes ahead of expected tax rises on the wealthy as Reeves tries to address a 20 billion pounds hole in the UK's finances.

In her first Budget tabled last year after Labour's general election win, there were increases to capital gains tax, a reduction of the tax relief for entrepreneurs selling their ventures and new taxes on the way family companies are passed down to future generations.

Rumours of further levies in her second Budget as Chancellor next week, including a possible 20 per cent exit tax on those leaving the UK, have caused much unease among the wealthy.

US, Ukraine and EU hold talks in Geneva on Trump's plan to end war

Zelenskyy warns Kyiv risks losing its dignity, freedom

GENEVA, REUTERS

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio (R) and Ukraine's Presidential Office Chief of staff Andriy Yermak hold a press conference in Geneva, on Sunday. AFP

Top officials from the United States, Ukraine, and national security advisers from France, Britain and Germany will hold talks in Geneva on Sunday to discuss Washington's draft plan to end the war in Ukraine.

US Special Envoy Steve Witkoff and Secretary of State Marco Rubio were due to arrive on Sunday for the talks on ending Russia's invasion, now in its fourth year.

On Friday, U.S. President Donald Trump said Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy had until Thursday to approve the 28-point plan, which calls on Ukraine to cede territory, accept limits on its military and renounce ambitions to join Nato.

"We hope to iron out the final details...to draft a deal that is advantageous to them (Ukraine)," a US official said. "Nothing will be agreed on until the two presidents get together", referring to Trump and Zelenskyy.

Early on Sunday, convoys of vehicles with US diplomatic plates were seen driving through Geneva, though it was not immediately clear exactly when the talks were beginning. Ukraine's delegation is led by the head of Zelenskyy's office, Andriy Yermak, and includes top security officials.

National security advisers from the E3 alliance of France, Britain and Germany will join the discussions, alongside the European Union. European and other Western leaders said on Saturday the US peace plan, which endorses key Russian demands, was a basis for talks to end the war but needed "additional work", as they seek a better deal for Kyiv before Thursday's deadline.

Before the talks, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy warned that Ukraine risked losing its dignity and freedom - or Washington's backing - over the plan.

Trump accuses Ukraine of ingratitude

US President Donald Trump, who has championed the 28-point plan, said on Sunday that Ukraine had not been grateful for American efforts over the war, prompting Ukrainian officials to stress their gratitude to the US president for his support, reports Reuters.

On Friday, Trump said Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy had until Thursday to approve the plan, which calls on Ukraine to cede territory, accept limits on its military and renounce ambitions to join Nato.

On Saturday, Trump said the current proposal for ending the war is not his final offer. For many Ukrainians, including soldiers such terms would amount to capitulation.

'Ex-Prince Andrew should testify in US probe into Jeffrey Epstein'

LONDON, AP: Pressure is increasing for the former Prince Andrew to give evidence to a US congressional committee investigating the convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein after Britain's prime minister suggested he should testify.

Keir Starmer declined to comment directly about King Charles III's disgraced younger brother, but told reporters travelling with him for the Group of 20 summit in Johannesburg that, as a "general principle", people should provide evidence to investigators.

"I don't comment on his particular case," Starmer said. "But as a general principle I've held for a very long time is that anybody who has got relevant information in relation to these kinds of cases should give that evidence to those that need it."

Israel kills senior Hezbollah official in strike on Beirut

HARET HREIK, AP: Israel on Sunday struck Lebanon's capital for the first time since June, saying it killed Hezbollah's chief of staff Haytham Tabtabai and warning the Iran-backed militant group not to rearm and rebuild a year after their latest war.

The strike in Beirut's southern suburbs killed five people and wounded 25 others, Lebanon's Health Ministry said.

Hezbollah did not immediately comment. Earlier, it said the strike, launched almost exactly a year after a ceasefire ended that Israel-Hezbollah war, threatened an escalation of attacks — just days before Pope Leo XIV is scheduled to visit Lebanon on his first foreign trip.

"We will continue to act forcefully to prevent any threat to the residents of the north and the state of Israel," Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz said in a statement.

Government spokesperson Shosh Bedrosian did not say whether Israel informed the US before the strike, saying only that "Israel makes decisions independently." Israel did not issue an evacuation warning.

Tabtabai had led Hezbollah's elite Radwan Unit. Israel's military said he "commanded most of Hezbollah's units and worked hard to restore them to readiness for war with Israel."

In 2016, the United States designated Tabtabai as a terrorist, calling him a military leader who led Hezbollah's special forces in Syria and Yemen, and it offered up to USD 5 million for information about him.

Tabtabai had been the apparent successor of Ibrahim Aqil, who was killed in September 2024 in Israeli attacks that wiped out much of Hezbollah's senior leadership, including longtime leader Hassan Nasrallah.

TCS hit by unfavourable US appeals court ruling; $194 mn in damages upheld

NEW DELHI, PTI

"Necessary provisions related to this matter will be duly made in the books of accounts and financial statements in accordance with applicable accounting standards"

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has said that US Court of Appeals has issued an "adverse ruling" in a matter related to trade secrets dispute with Computer Sciences Corporation (CSC), now merged with DXC Technology Company (DXC), and upheld the District Court decision on damages totalling about USD 194 million against the Indian IT firm.

The court has, however, vacated the previously granted injunction and directed the United States District Court, Northern District of Texas (Dallas Division) to reassess the injunction order basis direction of the Appeals Court, TCS said in a BSE filing.

"In continuation of our earlier communication...dated June 14, 2024, we wish to intimate you that the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit has issued an adverse ruling on November 21, 2025, in the above matter and confirmed the District Court decision on damages," TCS said in the filing titled "Update in the matter of suit filed by Computer Sciences Corporation/DXC Technology Company".

The company is evaluating various options, including review and appeal before appropriate courts, and intends to vigorously defend its position, TCS said.

"Necessary provisions related to this matter will be duly made in the books of accounts and financial statements in accordance with applicable accounting standards," the Tata Group company said in the statutory filing.

In June last year, a US court had ruled that TCS is liable for misappropriation of trade secrets and levied penal charges of around USD 194 million on the IT major.

In a filing at that time, TCS had informed that the order had been passed against the company in a case filed by CSC -- now merged with DXC Technology Company (DXC) -- alleging misappropriation of its trade secrets before United States District Court, Northern District of Texas, Dallas Division.

IN BRIEF

Siddanth stars in BCYA B win

▸ Siddanth Uthappa's brace along with Isaac, Jeevith and Karan's one goal apiece helped BCYA B score a comfortable 5-1 win over Bosch SC in the KSHA C Division Hockey League Championship on sunday, reports DHNS.

Results: Bengaluru Blues HC B: 4 (Manish Mayur 7th, 22nd, Arjun 13th, 44th) bt Hoysala HC: 0; BCYA B: 5 (Isaac 5th, Siddanth Uthappa 12th, 46th, Jeevith 16th, Karan 48th) bt Bosch SC: 1 (Tanush PV 49th).

Amar breaks national record

▸ Amar Singh Devanda clocked a national record time of 6:59:37 to win the Asia Oceania 100km Ultra Championship held in Bangkok, reports PTI from New Delhi.

Bangla win series over Ire

▸ Left-arm spinners Taijul Islam and Hasan Murad led Bangladesh to a 2-0 series sweep over Ireland with a commanding 217-run victory in the second Test on Sunday, reports AFP from Mirpur.

The result capped a memorable 100th Test for veteran Mushfiqur Rahim at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

East Bengal bow out

▸ East Bengal were on Sunday eliminated from the AFC Women's Champions League group stage after suffering a 0-3 thrashing at the hands of PFC Nasaf of Uzbekistan, reports PTI from Wuhan (China).

Abhinav shoots gold

▸ Abhinav Deshwal won India's 15th medal in shooting at the Deaflympics, clinching the gold in the 25m pistol event on Sunday with a record in qualification, reports PTI from Tokyo.

He shot a score of 44 in the final to edge out South Korea's Seung Hwa Lee, who finished on 43.

Sanjay, Sahana clinch titles

BENGALURU, DHNS: Sanjay Madhavan and Sahana H Murthy secured fighting victories to clinch the men's and women's titles respectively at the Karnataka State-Ranking Table Tennis tournament held in Dharwad on Sunday.

LOCAL TABLE TENNIS

While Sanjay overcame a mid-match slump to beat Madhavan bt Yeshwanth P 11-4, 11-9, 6-11, 11-6, 11-9 in the men's final, Sahana survived initial glitches to score a come-from-behind 4-11, 4-11, 12-10, 11-6, 11-6, 5-11, 11-4 win over Vedhalakshmi for the women's crown.

Results (singles): Men: Sanjay Madhavan bt Yeshwanth P 11-4, 11-9, 6-11, 11-6, 11-9.

Women: Sahana H Murthy bt Vedhalakshmi DK 4-11, 4-11, 12-10, 11-6, 11-6, 5-11, 11-4.

Under-19: Boys: Varun B Kashyap bt Aarnav N 11-9, 7-11, 11-8, 11-5, 16-14.

Winners (from left) Varun B Kashyap, Sahana H Murthy and Sanjay Madhavan.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

2nd Test: India vs South Africa (day 3, 9 am). **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network.**

FOOTBALL

EPL: Man United vs Everton (1:30 am, Tuesday). **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network.**

HOCKEY

Sultan Azlan Shah Cup: Korea vs New Zealand (1:30 pm), Belgium vs India (3:30 pm), Malaysia vs Canada (5:30 pm). **LIVE** on **FanCode.**

BADMINTON AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Lakshya breaks season drought

Indian scores 21-15, 21-11 win over Japan's Tanaka in final

SYDNEY, PTI

A fluent Lakshya Sen ended a difficult stretch on the international circuit by clinching his first title of the 2025 season, defeating Japan's Yushi Tanaka in the Australian Open men's singles final here on Sunday.

The 24-year-old shuttler from Almora, enduring a tough phase after finishing fourth at the Paris Olympics, capped a resurgent week with a commanding 21-15, 21-11 win over 26-year-old Tanaka. Emerging champion after a 38-minute final of the USD 475,000 Super 500 event, the Indian celebrated the moment by putting his fingers in his ears.

"I have seen a lot of ups and downs this season, with a few injuries at the start of the season. But I kept my hard work going throughout the season and I am very happy to end the season on a good note," said Lakshya. "I'm very excited, looking forward to the next season now and I am really happy with the way I played today and this week."

Lakshya, a 2021 World Championships bronze-medallist, had last won a Super 300 title at the Syed Modi International in Lucknow in 2024. However, a top-tier crown had eluded him since his triumph at the Canada Open the same year, though he came close at the Hong Kong Super 500 in September when he finished runner-up.

Facing world No. 26 Tanaka, winner of two Super 300 titles this year at the Orleans Masters and the US Open, Lakshya displayed control, sharp placement and clean execution, wrapping up the contest without dropping a game. With this victory, the reigning Commonwealth Games champion became only the second Indian to win a BWF World Tour title this season, following Ayush Shetty's maiden Super 300 triumph at the US Open.

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty had reached the finals at the Hong Kong and China Masters, while Kidambi Srikanth also logged a runner-up finish at the Malaysia Masters earlier in the year. Lakshya made a confident start, opening up a 6-3 lead as Tanaka committed a flurry of errors -- hitting into the net, going wide and overcooking his lifts.

A 35-shot rally ended with the Japanese shuttler again finding the net, before a lucky net cord finally broke Lakshya's run of points. Two crisp cross-court smashes on either flank had Lakshya on the floor as Tanaka closed the gap to 7-9, but the Indian carried a three-point cushion into the mid-game interval after the Japanese sprayed another shot to the net.

Chants of 'Lakshya! Lakshya' rang around the arena during the mid-game intervals, with a sizable Indian crowd turning up to support him. The Indian tightened his grip thereafter, dominating the net exchanges and keeping the shuttle flat and deep, denying Tanaka the length he needed to unleash his whipping smashes as he moved ahead 13-9.

Tanaka responded with a powerful smash, followed by a long error from Lakshya and a sharp net shot to make it 12-13. But Lakshya again pulled away, opening up a four-point lead at 17-13 with a backhand smash and another fierce cross-court winner.

Tanaka tried to stay in the hunt but two long errors handed Lakshya five game points. The Indian converted immediately as Tanaka drove another shuttle to the net. Lakshya said making a good beginning to match was important.

"It was important to have a good start, and keep the momentum in the last set because it was quite even in the first one. I got a good lead and I could finish it off. The second set started on a good note and then I just kept the lead to finish the match," the Indian noted.

India's Lakshya Sen celebrates with the Australian Open trophy in Sydney on Sunday. AFP

Kidambi Srikanth

Top players to compete at Syed Modi India International in Lucknow

LUCKNOW, PTI: Former champion Kidambi Srikanth, Olympians Nozomi Okuhara and HS Prannoy along with a strong international field will headline the Syed Modi India International HSBC World Tour Super 300 Badminton Championship beginning here on Tuesday.

Defending women's doubles champions Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand will also return to this meet.

The field also includes emerging talents like Priyanshu Rajawat, Tanvi Sharma, Anmol Kharb and Unnati Hooda with India fielding the largest contingent of 152 players.

The Uttar Pradesh Badminton Association announced that a total prize purse of USD 240,000 will be on offer.

Qualifiers and select main-draw matches will be played on Tuesday, while the finals are scheduled for November 30.

Rogers lifts Villa into top four

Unai Emery's men script 2-1 comeback win over Leeds

LEEDS, AFP

Morgan Rogers produced two excellent finishes to inspire an Aston Villa comeback to beat Leeds 2-1 at Elland Road on Sunday and move into the Premier League's top four.

Rogers has often been preferred this season by England manager Thomas Tuchel over Real Madrid's Jude Bellingham, but had struck just once this season prior to his second-half double.

After failing to win any of their first five games of the season, Villa have now won six of their last seven in the Premier League to climb into the Champions League places.

Defeat leaves Leeds inside the relegation zone and they were left to rue not building on a fast start.

Villa goalkeeper Emi Martinez pleaded in vain for a foul as he was challenged for a high ball by Anton Stach.

Ezri Konsa hooked the ball clear off his own line but the ball rebounded in off Lukas Nmecha.

Martinez made amends with a fine save to prevent Brenden Aaronson doubling the hosts' lead.

But Leeds' energy dwindled in the second half after Rogers pulled Villa level just three minutes after the restart.

Unai Emery's introduction of Donyell Malen at half-time paid immediate dividends as the Dutch international's cross was flicked into the far corner by Rogers at the near post.

Newcastle dent City

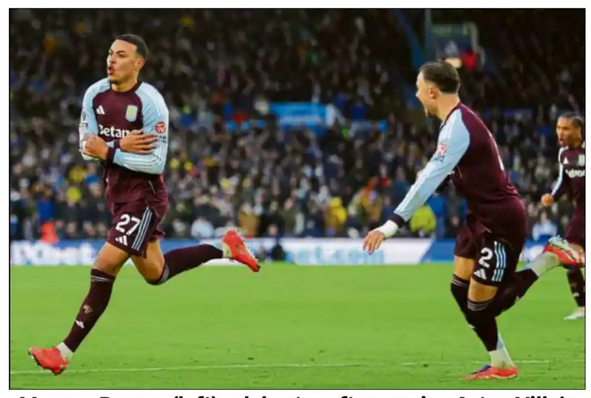
Pep Guardiola was left fuming after Newcastle dented Manchester City's Premier League title challenge with a controversial 2-1 victory on Saturday.

Guardiola's side trailed to Harvey Barnes' second-half opener at St James' Park before Ruben Dias equalised for the visitors.

Moments after Dias levelled, Barnes bagged Newcastle's contentious second goal, which was allowed to stand after a lengthy VAR check for a potential offside against Bruno Guimaraes.

"It was an entertaining game, we both had chances and then there was a momentum shift and ultimately we couldn't win," Guardiola said.

Results: Leeds: 1 (Nmecha 8th) It to Aston Villa: 2 (Rogers 48th, 75th); Newcastle 2 (Barnes 64th, 70th) bt Manchester City 1 (Dias 68th).



Morgan Rogers (left) celebrates after scoring Aston Villa's second goal against Leeds United at Elland Road on Sunday. REUTERS

Sindarov, Yi into final

MANISHA MOHITE

19-year-old Javokhir Sindarov of Uzbekistan was quite clearly the best player against compatriot Nodirbek Yakubboev, winning the first tie-break game and drawing the other in the semifinal tie-break to become the first player to advance to the finals of the FIDE World Cup 2025.

In contrast, Chinese Wei Yi was on the back foot and facing a disadvantageous position in the second game. He was out of time but Alexey Esipenko simply blundered a whole rook in a most dramatic fashion, allowing Wei to advance to the final.

Wei, the highest rated player amongst the four, quite clearly had Lady Luck smiling benevolently on him as he advanced to the finals. Earlier on Saturday, both the Classical games of the semifinals had resulted in draws, forcing a tie-break under faster time control.

Sindarov and Wei will not only contest the final but have booked their berths into the eight-player Candidates tournament next year in Cyprus; both will be making their debut. All, however, is not lost for Yakubboev and Esipenko as they will have to fight it out to stake claim on the third qualifying slot for the Candidates even though their campaign for the World Cup title has ended.

The final comprises of two Classical games to be played on Monday and Tuesday and ties would be resolved on Wednesday under faster time controls in the tie-break. The playoffs to decide the third place will be played simultaneously in a similar format.

"It is the biggest achievement of my career. I am very happy about it," said 26-year-old Wei. "I didn't know what would be the result today (Sunday) but I wanted to give my best. In the final position in the second game, my opponent blundered a rook. Otherwise, black could have played for a win and I would have to play for a draw. This is a long tournament and maybe he was tired."

Wei, who also holds the record as the youngest player to cross the Elo 2700 barrier at just 15.

Results: Semifinals: Tie breaks: GM Javokhir Sindarov bt GM Nodirbek Yakubboev 1.5-0.5; GM Wei Yi bt GM Andrey Esipenko 1.5-0.5.

Uzbekistan's Javokhir Sindarov (in pic) and China's Wei Yi confirmed their places in next year's Candidates tournament by reaching the final of the FIDE World Cup on Sunday. FIDE

Berrettini puts Italy on verge of third straight Davis Cup title

BOLOGNA, AFP: Matteo Berrettini put Italy close to a third consecutive Davis Cup title after beating Pablo Carreno Busta 6-3, 6-4 in Sunday's first singles match.

Berrettini saw off Carreno Busta in one hour and 19 minutes in front of delighted fans in Bologna to give the reigning champions a 1-0 lead in the best-of-three tie.

Flavio Cobolli can make it three in a row for Italy by beating Jaume Munar later on Sunday.

If Munar manages to level the tie for Spain -- missing world No. 1 Carlos Alcaraz to injury -- Simone Bolelli and Andrea Vavassori for Italy will take on Marcel Granollers and Pedro Martinez in a doubles match.

"It's hard to speak because I'm very happy and emotional, but we need to keep our feet on the ground because we have Flavio next," said Berrettini on court.

"I was a bit tense this morning but I told myself I needed to make sure I felt good on the court."

Raheel steers India past Korea

IPOH (MALAYSIA), PTI: A solitary strike from Mohammed Raheel **(in pic)** in the opening quarter saw a second-string Indian side defeat three-time champions South Korea 1-0 in the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup hockey tournament opener here on Sunday.

India, competing in the prestigious tournament after a gap of six years, scored the goal in the 15th minute when the hard-working Dilpreet Singh set it up for Raheel following a fine buildup by the men in blue, who enjoyed midfield dominance thanks largely to Abhishek and captain Sanjay, who was part of the Paris bronze-winning side.

The Koreans in fact had to do a lot of defending as India attacked from both flanks and even earned a penalty corner as early as in the fourth minute with Sanjay stepping up to take the set-piece. However, the defender's shot was saved by the rival goalkeeper.

The five-time champions, who have entered the prestigious tournament after six years -- India last played here in 2019 and finished runners-up to Korea -- were in a spot of bother in the second quarter when the Koreans were making a desperate bid for the equaliser.

Result: India: 1 (Mohammed Raheel 15th) bt Korea: 0.

Coach cleared of misconduct

Hockey India on Sunday said its internal inquiry into allegations of sexual misconduct against a coach of the junior women's team found no evidence and they have cleared him to travel with the squad for the World Cup in Santiago, Chile.

In an exclusive statement, HI said it had conducted an inquiry after certain media reports flagged the alleged misconduct. However, the federation said neither HI nor Sports Authority of India had received any formal complaint.

Max wins Vegas GP as McLarens disqualified

LAS VEGAS, AFP: Formula One world champion Max Verstappen produced a masterful drive to win the Las Vegas Grand Prix on Saturday and his title hopes were boosted further with the McLarens of championship leader Lando Norris and Oscar Piastri both being disqualified.

Norris finished the race in second with Piastri fourth but the skid blocks on both cars were found after the race to be less than the minimum depth. The disqualifications mean that with two race weekends remaining, four-time defending champion Verstappen is now level on points with Piastri in the title race, just 24 points behind Norris.

But Verstappen's chances of a fifth successive title will depend on another spectacular slip-up from Norris or his McLaren team. With a maximum of 58 points available in the final two grands prix, the Briton just needs to score two more points than each of his rivals in next weekend's penultimate weekend in Qatar, which includes a sprint, to secure his first title.

Verstappen dominated in Vegas from the moment he pounced on a slip by pole-sitter Norris on the first turn of Sin City's street circuit to grab the lead. Thereafter he controlled the race to claim the 69th Grand Prix win of his career, finishing more than 20 seconds clear.

The Dutchman said Red Bull's tyre strategy had laid the foundation for the win.

"Normally the race is always a tough one for us. We are not normally that great on tyres but today it seemed like we were more in control and I could push a little bit more," he said.

Max Verstappen

Decathlete Tejaswin not to defend his CWG high jump medal

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS

India's double national record holder Tejaswin Shankar, who owns the country's best marks in both high jump and decathlon, will continue to keep his focus firmly on the combined events for the crucial 2026 season, which features both the Asian Games and the Commonwealth Games.

This means he won't be defending his historic high jump bronze from Birmingham 2022, where he became the first Indian to win a CWG medal in the discipline.

Speaking to *DH*, the 26-year-old track and field athlete confirmed that decathlon will remain his focus as he looks to scale new heights in the multi-disciplinary space, starting with the indoor season which includes heptathlon. The year will also see India host its first-ever indoor nationals at the country's only indoor athletics stadium in Bhubaneswar in build-up to the Asian Indoors (Feb 6-8 in Nanjing, China) followed by the World Indoors (March 20-22, Poland).

"I want to do the combined events for both the Asian Games and Commonwealth Games next year. It's going to be a long season as I intend to participate in a couple of indoor meets as well," said Tejaswin, who has been sweating it out during the off-season in Bhubaneswar. "Heptathlon is a nice way to ease up into the decathlon events."

Tejaswin, who has held the high jump national record (2.29m) since 2016, knows that his continued absence from the event may be seen as a missed medal chance by many. Especially at the CWG, where the field gets tougher with athletes like New Zealand's Hamish Kerr (the reigning Olympic and World Champion) in the mix. Fans will hope Sarvesh Kushare, who soared to a personal best of 2.28m to make his maiden Worlds final this year, can push further.

In decathlon, however, Tejaswin is very much in the medal frame for the Asiad with his national record of 7826 points. But anything below 8000 at the CWG in Glasgow probably won't be enough. Canada's Damian Warner (PB: 9018), Grenada's Lindon Victor (8756), Australia's Ashley Moloney (8649) and others will enter as stronger favourites.

Ask Tejaswin, and the challenge only motivates him further as he continues to place himself outside his comfort zone.

"I know it would have been comfortable to continue doing high jump, where I reached a certain level and could have gone beyond but I want to push my limits and not play it safe. I know it would have been nice to defend my medal at high jump but how cool it would be if I become the same guy bagging a medal in a completely different event in CWG. It may happen or may not happen but it's a risk I am willing to take," said the Delhi-born Tamil-speaking athlete.

But is this really goodbye to high jump? Turns out the Kansas State University alumnus still has unfinished business there too.

"The only regret I have in high jump is, I went all the way till 2.29m and didn't cross 2.30. It would have been nice to be the first Indian to achieve that mark. That's the only thing left in high jump for me and if it's in my destiny then surely I will try to break the barrier. Interestingly, that's also the best mark in the decathlon's high jump. So you never know, I may breach that mark while competing in decathlon," concluded Tejaswin.

Tejaswin Shankar holds national records in both decathlon and high jump. PTI

CRICKET INDIA-SA TEST SERIES

PROTEAS TURN THE HEAT ON INDIA

Centurion Muthusamy and Jansen grind hosts' bowlers

MADHU JAWALI
GUWAHATI, DHNS

After a compelling day of Test cricket on Saturday, it was a classic slow burner on Sunday with the pitch nicely settling down and batters enjoying a field day. Having gained a slight upper hand at close on the opening day, the Indian bowlers were in for a grind that few could have imagined.

The last four stands for South Africa forced them toil for almost 70 overs spread over five long hours with the tourists accumulating 243 runs as opposed to 246 across six partnerships on the first day of the second Test here at the ACA Cricket Stadium.

The Indian pacers failed to make any impact with the second new ball, which was less than two overs old, in the opening hour while spinners couldn't replicate their opening day's magic as the pitch played fewer tricks. Overnight batter Senuran Muthusamy (109, 206b, 10x4, 2x6) struck his maiden Test hundred and Marco Jansen (93, 91b, 6x4, 7x4) missed out on what could have been his maiden ton but together they might have just put the game beyond India who must win to level the series after crashing to defeat in Kolkata inside three days.

South Africa's Senuran Muthusamy (left) and Marco Jansen put up a stand of 97 runs for the eighth wicket to torment India on the second day of the second Test in Guwahati. PTI

South Africa, overnight 247/6, posted 489 all out, ending their innings just after drinks in the final session. Indian openers -- Yashasvi Jaiswal (7 n.o.) and KL Rahul (2 n.o.) -- played out the tricky twilight passage to be at 9/0 when bad light ended the day's play.

For the second time in the past three home series, India found themselves in an unfamiliar situation of a visiting side pushing them on the backfoot with Muthusamy and Jansen at the heart of South Africa's complete domination on the day.

Muthusamy, a domestic veteran back home with over 5000 first-class runs under his belt, showed remarkable patience and discipline while crafting a high-quality century, combining steady accumulation with timely aggression. After extending overnight stand with Kyle Verryenne to 88 on Sunday and ensuring India went wicketless on a largely benign track in the first session, Muthusamy helped South Africa consolidate in the company of Jansen whose whirlwind knock took the wind out of India's sails.

While Muthusamy, who survived an on-field lbw decision when on 48 through DRS with a minute spike on the snicko, constructed his innings relying on old-school grinding of the attack, Jansen took the fight to the opposition, manufacturing a series of boundaries. The 6'7" batter used his long levers to good effect, reaching the balls early and depositing them deep into the stands. It wasn't a mindless slog, though. He picked the right deliveries to attack while exhibiting an impressive defence for a No. 9 batter.

Together with Muthusamy, the 25-year-old tailender raised 97 runs for the eighth wicket in just 107 balls that hurt India's position in the game. Where South Africa scored 69/0 in 29.1 overs in the first session, they raced to 112/1 in the second in just 26 overs as Jansen went on a rampage.

Jansen repeatedly took on Kuldeep Yadav (4/115) and Ravindra Jadeja (2/94), striking seven towering sixes by confidently stepping out and swinging powerfully through the arc between straight boundary and long on. That Kuldeep received two warnings from umpires for not sticking to the time-limit of 60 seconds between overs only added to stand-in skipper Rishabh Pant's annoyance. A third warning would have cost five-penalty runs.

Apart from Jasprit Bumrah (2/75), who bowled his heart out without much luck, none of the Indian bowlers appeared threatening. The finger spinners -- Jadeja and Washington Sundar (0/58) -- were rendered ineffective as the pitch lost its early bite.

With South Africa having consumed almost two days, the onus will be on India now to do all the running and make a match out of a Test that has already lost 20 overs on the first two days.

SCOREBOARD

SOUTH AFRICA (I INNINGS):

Markram b Bumrah (81b, 5x4)	38
Rickelton c Pant b Kuldeep (82b, 5x4)	35
Stubbs c Rahul b Kuldeep (112b, 4x4, 2x6)	49
Bavuma c Jaiswal b Jadeja (92b, 5x4)	41
De Zorzi c Pant b Siraj (59b, 3x4, 1x6)	28
Mulder c Jaiswal b Kuldeep (18b, 2x4)	13
Muthusamy c Jaiswal b Siraj (206b, 10x4, 2x6)	109
Verreynne St Pant b Jadeja (122b, 5x4)	45
Jansen b Kuldeep (91b, 6x4, 7x6)	93
Harmer b Bumrah (17b)	5
Maharaj (not out) (31b, 1x4)	12
Extras (B-8, LB-8, NB-4, W-1)	21
Total (all out, 151.1 overs)	**489**

Fall of wickets: 1-82 (Markram), 2-82 (Rickelton), 3-166 (Bavuma), 4-187 (Stubbs), 5-201 (Mulder), 6-246 (de Zorzi), 7-334 (Verryenne), 8-431 (Muthusamy), 9-462 (Harmer).

Bowling: Bumrah 32-10-75-2 (nb-2), Siraj 30-5-106-2 (w-1, nb-1), Nitish 6-0-25-0, Washington 26-5-58-0, Kuldeep 29.1-4-115-4, Jadeja 28-2-94-2.

INDIA (I INNINGS):

Jaiswal (batting) (23b, 1x4)	7
Rahul (batting) (14b)	2
Extras (0)	0
Total (for no loss, 6.1 overs)	**9**

Bowling: Jansen 3.1-1-9-0, Mulder 3-3-0-0.

Kuldeep terms Guwahati surface 'road' after a day of hard toil

MADHU JAWALI
GUWAHATI, DHNS

Kuldeep Yadav (left) felt that Indian bowlers put in a lot of effort but the second day Guwahati wicket didn't help much. PTI

India had gained a slight advantage after a wicket in the dying moments of the last session on Saturday's opening day. By the end of Sunday's proceedings, South Africa had taken a decisive edge by moving to 489 all out from 247/6 overnight.

Kuldeep Yadav, the best Indian bowler with a spell of 4/115 on Saturday, didn't look half as effective and termed the Guwahati surface "road" for offering little help for the bowlers.

"The Kolkata wicket was different and this was a road," Kuldeep told the media on Sunday. "So it's challenging, (but) that's why we call it Test cricket and every day it doesn't happen according to your plan. As a bowler, you always think to dominate but when you get a good wicket, it's very important how you come back. We were in good control yesterday (Saturday) but in one session, there was a partnership.... So we are behind in the game." Kuldeep couldn't extract much turn on a wicket that appeared to have lost its fizz and turned into a batting wicket.

After a fruitless slog through the day, the left-arm wrist spinner earned a consolation when Marco Jansen played on to give him his lone wicket on the day. "Personally I felt yesterday, (in the) first session there was a bit of moisture in the wicket," Kuldeep said when asked about the changes in the pitch from day one.

"I got a little bit of turn in the first session, and after that it was very good to bat on. There wasn't any turn yesterday as well as today (Sunday). Today was much better to bat because I hardly got any turn."

Though India didn't get any wicket in the first session, they didn't leak too many runs. But Jansen produced a blinder to change the complexion of the game.

"I personally thought that we bowled very well in the first session," he insisted. "You need a lot of discipline especially if it is a wicket where you get less opportunities to take wickets. But I thought all the bowlers bowled very well in the first session, there were 61-62 runs (69 runs) which was very good.

"But the way Marco Jensen took on, obviously the wicket was good and he took chances. This happens generally when the partnership is long and you are in a stable position... The team wants to capitalise and the wicket was good for batting."

Six years on, 'grateful' Muthusamy toasts India return with classy hundred

MADHU JAWALI
GUWAHATI, DHNS

Senuran Muthusamy (in pic) endured a forgettable Test debut in India when South Africa visited the country in 2019 under Faf du Plessis. While South Africa were blanked 3-0 by Virat Kohli-led India, Muthusamy's only "notable" performance was a first-innings 33 n.o. in Visakhapatnam. Across two Tests, the left-arm spinner claimed just two wickets.

Over the next six years, Muthusamy has appeared in just eight Tests with five of them coming in the last 13 months. The last three Tests have been particularly memorable for him; the 31-year-old all-rounder was man of the series in South Africa's drawn Test series against Pakistan, bagging 11 wickets and scoring 89. He didn't make the cut for the Kolkata Test but upon being drafted in Guwahati, slammed a potentially match-defining century (109, 206b, 10x4, 2x6) on the second day of the second Test here on Sunday.

"Yeah, it's fantastic, especially having come through to India in 2019 and we lost the series pretty badly," Muthusamy said at the end of day's play. "I've gone back to domestic cricket and I've managed to work my way back into the national set-up and I'm just really grateful for the opportunity to be in India and to put in a performance like that in the first innings is an awesome experience. It's fantastic."

When asked how special the knock was given his Indian heritage, Muthusamy said: "Yeah, of course, I'm of Indian heritage, but that was quite a few generations ago. But, yeah, I'm very, very grateful for the opportunity to play in this Test match after not playing the first one."

Enaan ton powers India A

BENGALURU, DHNS: Mohamed Enaan produced a match-winning unbeaten hundred to guide India A to a 26-run victory over India B in the Under-19 Tri-Series, putting his side on the verge of a place in the final here on Sunday.

Walking in at No. 8 with India A struggling at 134/7, Enaan rebuilt the innings with an unbeaten 105.

Brief scores: India A U-19 269/7 in 50 overs (Mohamed Enaan 105 n.o., Vihaan Malhotra 42, Anmoljeet Singh 30 n.o.; Jeganathan Hemchudeshan 2-37, BK Kishore 2-45, Rohit Das 2-57) bt India B U-19 243 all out in 47.2 overs (Harvansh Pangalia 99, Amav Bugga 49, Jeganathan Hemchudeshan 45; Aditya Rawat 4-34, Mohammed Malik 4-49).

Samarth stars in Hoop 7's victory

BENGALURU, DHNS: Samarth scored 34 points in the Hoop 7 BC's 84-68 victory over IBBC in the latest round of men's matches of the State Association Cup championships at the Sree Kanteerava courts here on Sunday.

LOCAL BASKETBALL

Results: Men: Hoop 7 BC: 84 (Samarth 34, Aarav 20) bt IBBC: 68 (Karan 19, Yashas 18). HT: 51-37; Chikkamagalur District: 69 (Chanakya 18 points, Vinod 15) bt Dharwad District A: 49 (Mohith 15, Sanketh 12). HT: 40-19; Rajmahal BC: 81 (Anand 32, Shishir 22) bt Mysore District A: 63 (Ronak 25). HT: 49-34; Bharath SU: 69 (Akshay 17) bt Rajkumar BC: 38 (Madan 13). HT: 32-14; Vimanapura SC: 66 (Akash 12, Rakshan 12) bt HBR BC: 56 (Sanketh Sai 20, Shashidhar 16). HT: 26-32; DYES Bangalore: 80 (Nithin 11, Manoj 10) bt YMMA: 41 (Prashanth 16, Prabhath 13). HT: 32-19; MNK Rao Park BC: 77 (Ajin 19, Vijen 14) bt Dharwad District B: 36 (Gagan 9). HT: 49-19; Vivek's SC: 95 (James 43, Sanjay 19) bt BOSCH: 67 (Sudeep 17, Vijay 17). HT: 48-28.
Women: Southern Blues: 37 (Vibha 11, Anvitha 10) bt Lakshyan BC: 15. HT: 24-7; Mounts Club: 56 (Nidhi 14) bt Pattabhiram BC: 22 (Roshni 8). HT: 35-9; Rajmahal BC: 49 (Aishwarya 9) bt Yelahanka New Town BC: 29 (Viha 9). HT: 22-9; HBR BC: 53 (Aditi 17) bt Halasuru SU: 38 (Hedhzibah 21). HT: 27-14.

Rahul to lead in SA ODIs; Pant back

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
BENGALURU, DHNS

India's KL Rahul has been named the stand-in skipper for the three-match ODI series against South Africa. AFP FILE PHOTO

India's pencilled one-day international wicketkeeper KL Rahul has been named the stand-in captain for the upcoming ODI series against South Africa with regular skipper Shubman Gill out with a neck injury that he sustained during the first Test against South Africa in Kolkata.

The Indian selectors on Sunday announced a 15-member squad for the three ODI matches beginning on November 30 in Ranchi, that also saw Rishabh Pant and Ravindra Jadeja return to the mix after a long hiatus.

Pant, who last played in the 50-over format during the tour of Sri Lanka in August last year, is expected to blood into the middle-order that is without vice-captain Shreyas Iyer, who is still recovering from a spleen injury, suffered in the Sydney ODI in October.

Veteran all-rounder Jadeja, whose last appearance in the format was during India's triumphant Champions Trophy campaign in March, was called-up with like-to-like Axar Patel getting a rest.

Tilak Varma also makes a return to the ODI squad, having last played on the tour of South Africa in 2023. The 23-year-old has been rewarded for his good show in the Asia Cup and could be set for a middle-order role.

Mohammed Siraj, along with fellow quick Jasprit Bumrah, will sit out of the series with an eye on workload management, having featured in the home Tests against West Indies and the Proteas. However, the Indian pace stocks will be guarded by Arshdeep Singh, Prasidh Krishna and Harshit Rana as the frontline quicks, with all-rounder Nitish Kumar Reddy as the second line of defence.

Having last featured in an ODI in Gqeberha in 2023, Ruturaj Gaikwad won the selectors' trust on the back of some impressive performances in India A colours against South Africa A.

Star all-rounder Hardik Pandya continued to be unavailable for selection and is currently undergoing rehab at the BCCI's Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru.

However, the 32-year-old is set to feature for Baroda in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy that gets underway from November 26 and could be in line for an India selection for the five-match T20I rubber against South Africa that gets underway from December 9 in Cuttack.

Squad: Rohit Sharma, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Virat Kohli, Tilak Varma, KL Rahul (C) (wk), Rishabh Pant (wk), Washington Sundar, Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Harshit Rana, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Prasidh Krishna, Arshdeep Singh, Dhruv Jurel.
ODI Series Schedule: 1st ODI: Nov 30 (Ranchi); 2nd ODI: Dec 3 (Raipur); 3rd ODI: Dec 6 (Visakhapatnam).

England termed 'brainless', 'stupid' by former greats

PERTH, AFP: A stunned England woke Sunday to savage criticism after their meek capitulation in the first Ashes Test, branded "brainless" and "damaged" by former greats after their cavalier approach backfired.

Ben Stokes's men lost the opening battle in Perth by eight wickets inside two days on the back of batting collapses and Travis Head slamming a sensational 69-ball century.

Leading into Perth, Stokes called the former players who had criticised England's low-key build up as "has-beens" -- and that came back to bite him.

"Well, from this has-been the message is simple: when you keep throwing away Test matches by doing the same stupid things, it is impossible to take you seriously," batting great Geoffrey Boycott said in a newspaper column.

"They never learn, because they never listen to anyone outside their own bubble, because they truly believe their own publicity.

Ben Stokes

Head to solve opening woes?

Travis Head may have batted himself into a permanent role as Australian opener after his swashbuckling 123 against England, casting doubt on the future of an ageing Usman Khawaja, reports AFP from Perth.

Khawaja failed to open in either innings in Perth because of back spasms, paving the way for Head to seize the opportunity.

Bunde-ridden King's Retreat wins main event

KOLKATA RESULTS

King's Retreat, from the stables of Rajender Reddy and ridden by Vishal Bunde, won the Royal Western India Turf Club Ltd Cup, the feature event of the races on Sunday.

1. Bergamo Handicap - 1400M: Lineupandcollect (Vishan Bunde) 1; Made In Heaven (Mark) 2; Hermes (Antony Raj) 3; MSG Fantasy (MS Deora) 4; Wb: 5, 2-1/2, 3L. T: 1:28.00. TB: Sabeel Shariff. Fav: Hermes.
2. Vibrant Handicap (Div I) -1200M: Princess Peach (Mukesh Kumar) 1; Resplendence (Vishal Bunde) 2; Black Dimond (Suraj Narredu) 3; Oishika (RS Bhati) 4; Wb: 1-1/2, Hd, 3/4L. T: 1:13.54. TB: Patrick Quinn. Fav: Black Diamond.
3. Vibrant Handicap (Div II) - 1200M: Impressive Annie (RS Bhati) 1; Most And More (Suraj Narredu) 2; Sporting Trainer (Varun) 3; Queen Of Mafia (A Prakash) 4; Wb: 2, 1-1/4, 1-1/2L. T: 1:13.54. TB: Aashay Doctor. Fav: Most And More.
4. Dancing Colours Handicap - 2000M: Multi Success (Suraj Narredu) 1; Laamika (Antony Raj) 2; Cool Daddy (Gaurav Singh) 3; Sanaya (Mukesh Kumar) 4; Wb: 3/4, 2-1/4, 1-1/2L. T: 2:08.52. TB: Rajesh Narredu. Fav: Multi Success.
5. Own Opinion Handicap - 1400M: Charismatic (Antony Raj) 1; Bharat (Mukesh Kumar) 2; Star concept (Imran Chisty) 3; Tycoonist (Varun) 4; Wb:8, 4, 3/4L. T: 1:24.90. TB: Prasanna Kumar. Fav: Charismatic.
6. Royal Western India Turf Club Ltd Cup - 1400M: King's Retreat (Vishal Bunde) 1; Misty (Trevor Patel) 2; King Of Mafia (Suraj Narredu) 3; Clifford (JH Arul) 4; Wb: Hd, 6, 1/2L . T: 1:25.93. TB: Rajender Reddy. Fav: Misty.
7. Eagle Pines Handicap - 1400M: Pantazi (Trevor Patel) 1; Abhicandra (RS Bhati) 2; Norwegian Wood (Mukesh Kumar) 3; Oh My Darling (A Prakash) 4; Wb: 4, 1-1/2L, Lnk. T: 1:25.51. TB: Aashay Doctor. Fav: Pantazi.
Bengaluru dividends
I race: Rs 29w; 11, 12, 10p; Fc: Rs 94; Q: Rs 47; Shp: Rs 32; Thp: Rs 50; Tri: Rs 104 & 37; Ex: Rs 331 & 231.
II race: Rs 35w; 16, 20, 11p; Fc: Rs 216; Q: Rs 103; Shp: Rs 51; Thp: Rs 39; Tri: Rs 405 & 114; Ex: Rs 1,926 & 779.
III race: Rs 77w; 28, 10, 25p; Fc: Rs 238; Q: Rs 62; Shp: Rs 32; Thp: Rs 65; Tri: Rs 2,083 & 1,379; Ex: Rs 5,623 & 1,445.
IV race: Rs 25w; 14, 12, 20p; Fc: Rs 52; Q: Rs 25; Shp: Rs 28; Thp: Rs 39; Tri: Rs 366 & 177: Ex: Rs 423 & 106.
V race: Rs 12w; 10, 32p; Fc: Rs 28; Q: Rs 29; Shp: Rs 25; Thp: Rs 30; Tri: Rs 72 & 37; Ex: Rs 205 & 70.
VI race: Rs 75w; 15, 11, 14p; Fc: Rs 195; Q: Rs 74; Shp: Rs 34; Thp: Rs 37; Tri: Rs 719 & 419; Ex: Rs 2,652 & 2,169.
VII race: Rs 16w; 12, 21, 17p; Fc: Rs 45; Q: Rs 45; Shp: Rs 36; Thp: Rs 45; Tri: Rs 269 & 121; Ex: Rs 4,119 & 3,883.
Jackpot: Rs 6,988 (57).
Runner-up: Rs 1,674 (102).
I treble: Rs 1,664 (4).
II treble: Rs 310 (290).

Vaibhav's 4-for sets tone for K'taka

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka enjoyed a strong opening day against Himachal in their latest elite Group C match of the Cooch Behar Trophy, led by a disciplined spell from Vaibhav Sharma, who claimed 4 for 37 to help dismiss Himachal Pradesh for 162 at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Sunday.

Backed by steady support from Eesa Puthige (2/26), Akshath Prabhakar (2/40) and Rathan BR (2/29), Karnataka's bowling attack maintained control throughout, striking regularly to prevent any substantial partnerships.

Only Akshay Vashisht (49) and Lakshya Thakur (30 not out) offered resistance for the visitors.

In reply, Karnataka reached 36 for 1 at stumps, with Aadesh D Urs (15 n.o.) and Dhruv Krishnan (17 n.o.) at the crease after the early loss of Nitish Arya (3).

Karnataka, who are currently second in Group C following a win over Uttarakhand in their previous match, trail by 126 runs with nine wickets in hand heading into day 2.

Brief scores: Himachal: 162 all out in 68.5 overs (Akshay Vashisht 49, Aryan Thakur 26, Lakshya Thakur 30 n.o.; Vaibhav Sharma 4-37, Eesa Puthige 2-26, Akshath Prabhakar 2-40, Rathan BR 2-29) vs Karnataka: 36/1 in 15 overs.

Smriti's wedding postponed

SANGLI, PTI: The wedding of star Indian women's cricketer Smriti Mandhana and music composer Palash Munchal has been postponed indefinitely after her father Shrinivas fell ill in the lead-up to the ceremony, which was scheduled to take place here on Sunday.

"Smriti's father, Mr. Shrinivas Mandhana was having breakfast this morning and his health started deteriorating. We waited thinking he would recover soon, but it didn't improve," Tuhin Mishra, the Smriti's manager said.

India win blind women's WC

COLOMBO, PTI

India defeated Nepal by seven wickets in the final to be crowned champions of the women's blind cricket World Cup.

India on Sunday won the inaugural T20 blind women's World Cup after defeating Nepal by seven wickets in the final played at the P Sara oval here.

India restricted Nepal to 114 for 5 after opting to bowl and then coasted to 117 for 3 in just 12 overs to win the title.

Such was India's domination that their rivals managed just a single boundary in their innings.

Phula Saren top-scored for India in the run chase with 44 not out. India had beaten Australia in the first semifinal, while Nepal had won against Pakistan in the second semifinal on Saturday. Pakistan's Mehreen Ali, a B3 or partially sighted player, was the star batter in the six-team tournament.

Brief scores: Nepal: 114/5 in 20 overs (Sarita Ghimire 35, Bimala Rai 26) lt to India: 117/3 in 12 overs (Phula Saren 44 n.o., Karuna 42). **Result:** India won by 7 wkts.

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